KOREAN WAR

Organized Crime?

Part 2: North Korea, Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), & Special Interests

COUNCIL on FOREIGN RELATIONS

By William P. Litynski

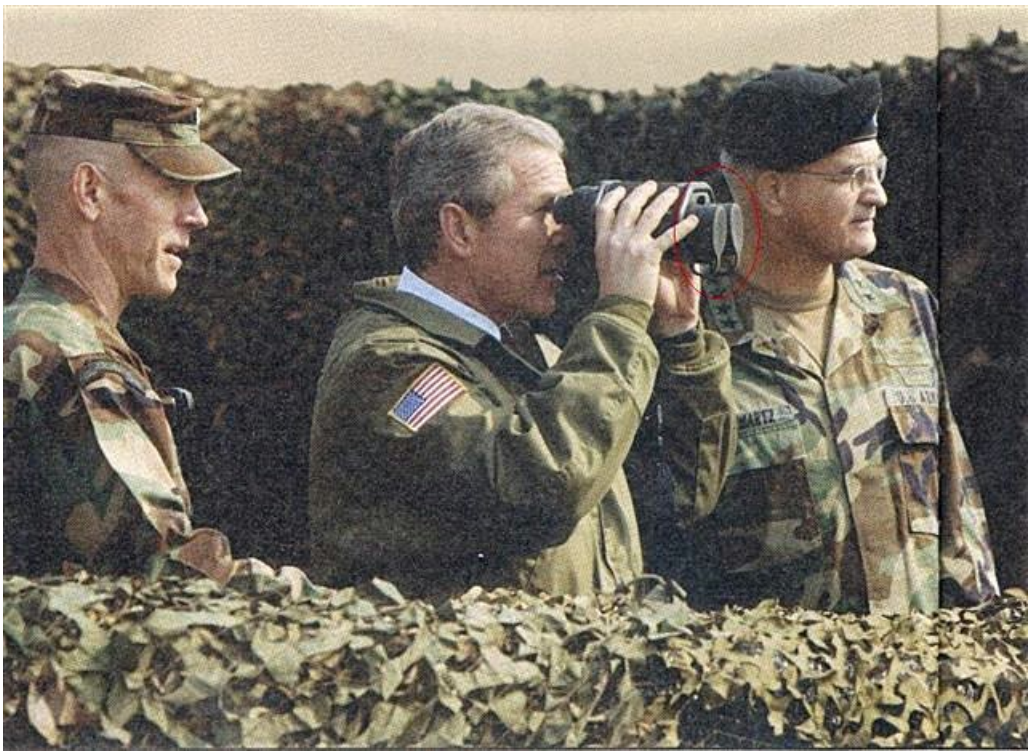
Modern Korea: Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace?

South Korean tourists tour the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) as South Korean soldiers in the rear and North Korean soldiers in the foreground guard the Korean border. (Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/yeowatzup/2913814019/)

The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the 4km wide buffer zone separating North and South Korea is anything but demilitarized. Both countries are still technically at war, the ceasefire and armistice that ended the fighting were never followed with a formal peace treaty. The Joint-Security Area is a row of blue and white huts straddling the Military Demarcation Line dividing the peninsula where armistice talks continue to this day.

"War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength."
– George Orwell (originally Eric Arthur Blair (born June 25, 1903; died January 21, 1950)), from his novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (published in June 1949)

The North Korean Army displays a set of artillery howitzers during a military parade in Pyongyang, North Korea.



Left photo: United States President George W. Bush tours the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in 2002. (AP Photo)
Right photo: United States President Bill Clinton appears at the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in 1993. (AP Photo)

Left photo: President George W. Bush and two unidentified U.S. Army officers visit the Korean DMZ. (White House photo by Eric Draper)

Center photo: A female North Korean soldier looks out from behind a barbed wire fence around a camp on the North Korean river banks across from Hekou, northeastern China's Liaoning province.
(Photo: http://www.democraticunderground.com/discuss/duboard.php?az=view_all&address=389x5808709)

Right Photo: A North Korean soldier brandishes his rifle.

United States President Ronald Reagan looks across the Korean DMZ at Guard Post Collier, South Korea on November 13, 1983. (Photo: Ronald Reagan Presidential Library)

U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld meets with South Korean Ambassador to the United States Han Sung Joo (center) and Maj. Gen. Moon Young Han (left) inside Rumsfeld's Pentagon office on October 1, 2004. Han Sung Joo is a member of the Trilateral Commission. Donald Rumsfeld is a former member of the Council on Foreign Relations.
(Department of Defense photo by Master Sgt. James M. Bowman, U.S. Air Force)

American President George W. Bush spoke to military personnel, their families and civilian employees at Collier Field House while visiting U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan in Seoul, South Korea on August 6, 2008. Yongsan Garrison was a former Imperial Japanese Army garrison during Japan's occupation of Korea from 1910 to 1945. The KATUSA (Korean Augmentation To the United States Army) program allows Korean men who speak English fluently to serve in the U.S. military instead of the Korean military.
(Photo: U.S. Army, Installation Management Command, Korea Region, Public Affairs Office)

In her first official trip overseas as Secretary of State, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton visits the Combined Forces Command at the USFK headquarters on Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, South Korea on February 20, 2009. The Combined Forces Command (CFC) Commanding General Walter Sharp (right) and his deputy Gen. Lee Sung-chool (left) appear with Secretary Clinton.
(U.S. Army Korea Official Image Archive)

U.S. Army Col. Kurt Taylor (left) briefs U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton (center) and U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates (right) at the truce village of Panmunjom, in a demilitarized zone (DMZ) north of Seoul, South Korea, July 21, 2010, as a North Korean soldier watches through the window. The DMZ has separated North Korea and South Korea since the Korean War. (Photo: U.S. Department of Defense)

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates look from the observation post on July 20, 2010 in Panmunjom, South Korea. Hillary, will join Secretary of Defense Robert Gates in talks with South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak. (Photo: Pool/Getty Images)

From left to right: Foreign Minister of South Korea Yu Myung-hwan, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Defense Minister of South Korea Kim Tae-young speak to members of the press outside the T2 buildings in Panmunjom, Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), Korea on July 21, 2010. (Photo: U.S. Department of Defense)

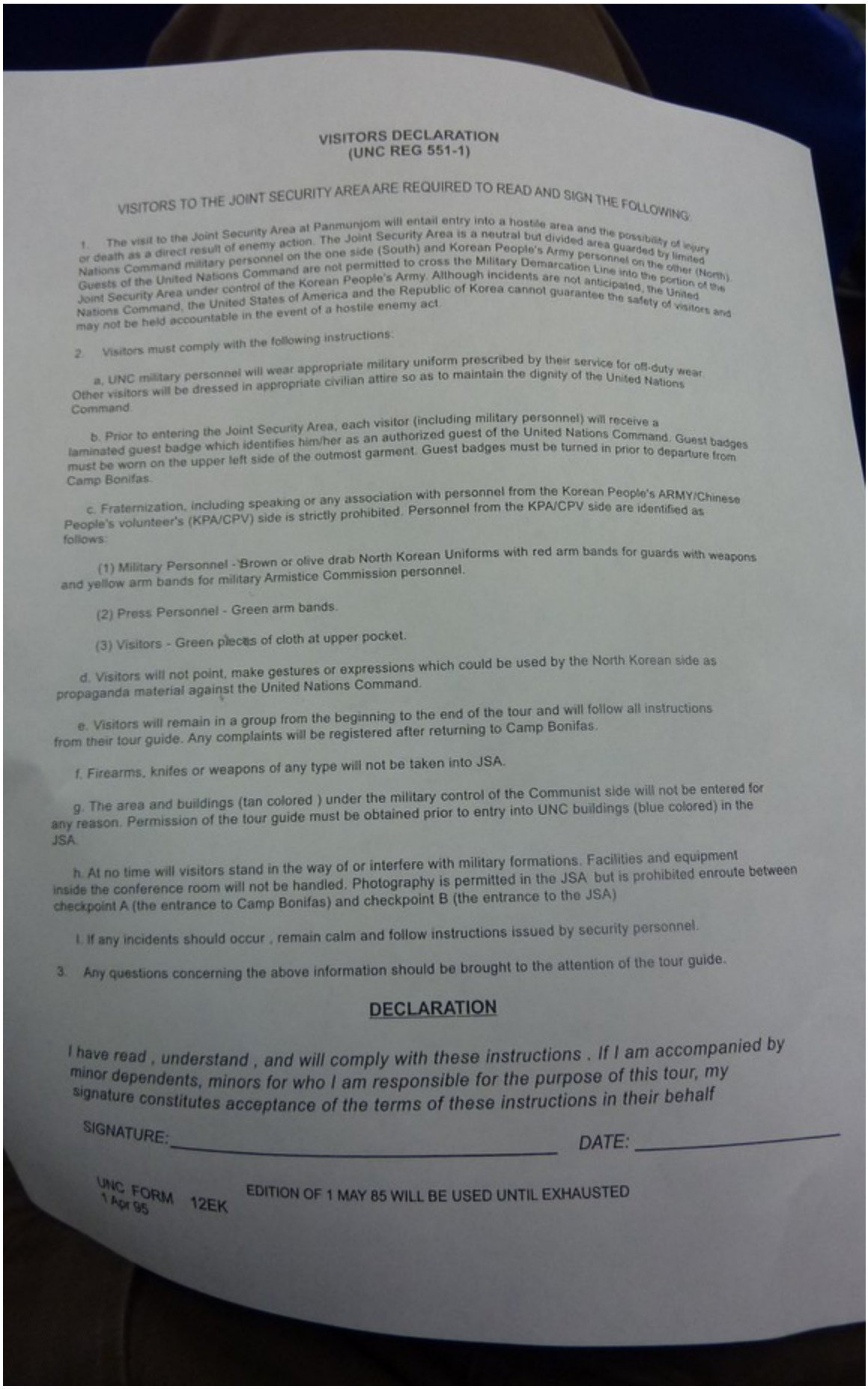
U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates look out over North Korea from Observation Point Ouellette during a tour at the Demilitarized Zone that separates South and North Korea on July 21, 2010. (U.S. Department of Defense photo by Cherie Cullen)

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates look from the observation post on July 20, 2010 in Panmunjom, South Korea. Hillary, will join Secretary of Defense Robert Gates in talks with South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak. (Photo: Pool/Getty Images)

The Korean Demilitarized Zone at Panmunjom. (Photo: Flickr)

Entrance at Camp Bonifas, South Korea, headquarters of the United Nations Command Security Battalion

North Korean soldiers examine the other side of the Demilitarized Zone at the Truce Village in Panmunjom, Korea with their binoculars. (Photo: Flickr)



VISITORS DECLARATION
(UNC REG 551-1)

VISITORS TO THE JOINT SECURITY AREA ARE REQUIRED TO READ AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING:

1. The visit to the Joint Security Area at Panmunjom will entail entry into a hostile area and the possibility of injury or death as a direct result of enemy action. The Joint Security Area is a neutral but divided area guarded by limited Nations Command military personnel on the one side (South) and Korean People's Army personnel on the other (North). Guests of the United Nations Command are not permitted to cross the Military Demarcation Line into the portion of the Joint Security Area under control of the Korean People's Army. Although incidents are not anticipated, the United Nations Command, the United States of America and the Republic of Korea cannot guarantee the safety of visitors and may not be held accountable in the event of a hostile enemy act.

2. Visitors must comply with the following instructions:

a. UNC military personnel will wear appropriate military uniform prescribed by their service for off-duty wear. Other visitors will be dressed in appropriate civilian attire so as to maintain the dignity of the United Nations Command.

b. Prior to entering the Joint Security Area, each visitor (including military personnel) will receive a laminated guest badge which identifies him/her as an authorized guest of the United Nations Command. Guest badges must be worn on the upper left side of the outmost garment. Guest badges must be turned in prior to departure from Camp Bonifas.

c. Fraternization, including speaking or any association with personnel from the Korean People's ARMY/Chinese People's volunteer's (KPA/CPV) side is strictly prohibited. Personnel from the KPA/CPV side are identified as follows:

(1) Military Personnel - Brown or olive drab North Korean Uniforms with red arm bands for guards with weapons and yellow arm bands for military Armistice Commission personnel.

(2) Press Personnel - Green arm bands.

(3) Visitors - Green pieces of cloth at upper pocket.

d. Visitors will not point, make gestures or expressions which could be used by the North Korean side as propaganda material against the United Nations Command.

e. Visitors will remain in a group from the beginning to the end of the tour and will follow all instructions from their tour guide. Any complaints will be registered after returning to Camp Bonifas.

f. Firearms, knifes or weapons of any type will not be taken into JSA.

g. The area and buildings (tan colored) under the military control of the Communist side will not be entered for any reason. Permission of the tour guide must be obtained prior to entry into UNC buildings (blue colored) in the JSA.

h. At no time will visitors stand in the way of or interfere with military formations. Facilities and equipment inside the conference room will not be handled. Photography is permitted in the JSA but is prohibited enroute between checkpoint A (the entrance to Camp Bonifas) and checkpoint B (the entrance to the JSA)

I. If any incidents should occur , remain calm and follow instructions issued by security personnel.

3. Any questions concerning the above information should be brought to the attention of the tour guide.

DECLARATION

I have read , understand , and will comply with these instructions . If I am accompanied by minor dependents, minors for who I am responsible for the purpose of this tour, my signature constitutes acceptance of the terms of these instructions in their behalf

SIGNATURE:_____ DATE: _____

UNC FORM 12EK EDITION OF 1 MAY 85 WILL BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED
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A Visitors Declaration Form for tourists visiting the Truce Village at Panmunjom, Korea

Bank of Korea (한국은행 [Hanguk Eunhaeng]), the central bank of the Republic of Korea that is located in Seoul, South Korea, was officially opened on June 12, 1950, just 13 days before Kim Il Sung's North Korean Communist army crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded the Republic of Korea.

Kim Choong-soo (left), the current Governor of the Bank of Korea and a former economic adviser to President Lee Myung-bak, talks with President Lee Myung-bak (right) before a cabinet council at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea on May 13, 2008. (Reuters)

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke (L) shakes hands with Bank of Korea Governor Kim Choong-soo at the beginning of the G-20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors during the spring IMF-World Bank meeting in Washington, D.C. on April 23, 2010. (Reuters)

Bank of Korea Governor Kim Choong-soo (L) talks with U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner in front of Bank of Japan Governor Masaaki Shirakawa (C) during a reception at the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in Busan [Pusan], South Korea on June 4, 2010. Finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of 20 wealthy and developing economies gathered in South Korea to grapple with Europe's debt crisis, financial reforms and efforts to rebalance the global economy. Timothy Geithner is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a frequent Bilderberg Meetings participant. (Reuters) http://www.daylife.com/photo/07ri0Mm8mFdeU?q=kim+choong+soo

Park Geun-Hye (left), the daughter of Gen. Park Chung-hee, greets South Korea’s President Lee Myung-bak.

Park Geun-Hye was elected South Korea's first female president on December 19, 2012. She is the daughter of former President of South Korea Gen. Park Chung-hee. In this March 2008 photo, Park burns incense for her father.
(JEON YOUNG-HAN/AFP/Getty Images)

The skyline of Seoul, South Korea

Korean KTX express trains appear at Seoul Station in Seoul, South Korea.

Dorasan Train Station in South Korea, near the Demilitarized Zone

South Korean army soldiers guard the entrance of the Dorasan Train Station in South Korea.

South Korean army soldiers guard the entrance of the Dorasan Train Station in South Korea.

North Korea: Worker's Paradise or Concentration Camp?

A group of Korean workers await the beginning of the 100th Year Kim Il Sung Birthday Celebrations in Pyongyang, North Korea on April 13, 2012 (Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephferris76/7138025911/in/set-72157629532409702)

A group of Korean students in Pyongyang prepare to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Kim Il Sung on April 13, 2012. (Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephferris76/6995899476/in/set-72157629532409702)

Korean workers congregate outside an industrial factory in Hamhung, North Korea on April 18, 2012. Hamhung is located on the eastern side of North Korea by the shores of the Sea of Japan.
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephferris76/7155058840/in/set-72157629532409702)

Korean passengers ride a local commuter train in the Wonsan-Hamhung countryside of North Korea on April 18, 2012. The North Korean cities of Wonsan and Hamhung are located on the eastern side of North Korea by the shores of the Sea of Japan.
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephferris76/6988675402/in/set-72157629532409702/)

A group of farmers are seen planting in a field in the Wonsan-Hamhung countryside of the eastern coast of North Korea on April 20, 2012. (Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephferris76/7138021033/in/set-72157629532409702)

A North Korean woman washes clothes in front of houses along the banks of the Yalu River near the North Korean town of Qing Cheng on September 12, 2008. (REUTERS/David Gray) http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2008/09/recent_scenes_from_north_korea.html

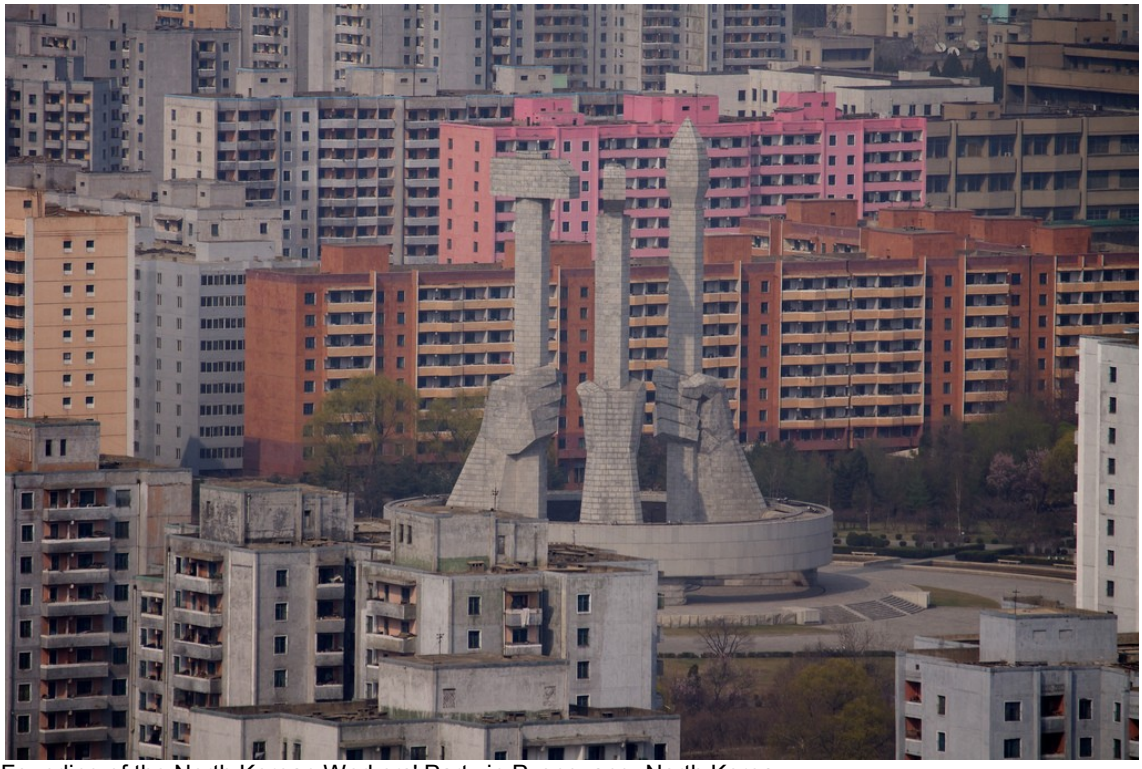
Kaesong Industrial Park, located in North Korea approximately 10 kilometers from the De-Militarized Zone (DMZ), is a designated North Korean “special economic zone” where South Korean businessmen are encouraged to “invest” in “cheap labor”, open new factories and stores, and provide jobs for unemployed Koreans living in the totalitarian Communist state.

North Korean workers are seen working on bicycle tires at Kaesong Industrial Park. Korean workers at Kaesong Industrial Park are not paid directly by South Korean businessmen; South Korean businessmen are required to give the workers’ paychecks to a North Korean bureaucracy before Korean workers receive their “salary”.

A primary electric plant in Pyongyang is equipped with very old Soviet steam turbines
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/kernbeisser/4296664731/in/set-72157623070085604/)

Taehak Street in Pyongyang, North Korea
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/kernbeisser/4267738183/in/set-72157623070085604/)

Eric Lafforgue: "Pyongyang view, taken from Yanggakdo hotel. You can find a famous satellite picture on the net showing a map of the Korean peninsula by night, with a huge difference between the north and south. In North Korea, there is no public lighting, and people use very low wattage bulbs in their houses. The North Korean capital is as surreal by night as it is by day. Due to the fuel crisis there's hardly any traffic to be heard after dark, and nightlife is virtually non-existent. Only monuments are lit during local festivities. Every hour, on the hour, from 6 am to midnight, loudspeakers blast out a patriotic song. Tourists are totally forbidden from leaving their hotels to walk around town, even though Pyongyang is safe, that's the rule." (© Eric Lafforgue) http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2008/09/recent_scenes_from_north_korea.html



Monument to the Founding of the North Korean Workers' Party in Pyongyang, North Korea
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephferris76/6989622084/in/set-72157629532409702)

A female traffic police officer is seen sweeping a portion of a highway in Pyongyang, North Korea on April 13, 2012.
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephferris76/6988640812/)

A highway in Pyongyang, North Korea
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephferris76/6985928048/in/set-72157629532409702)

An overcrowded Pyongyang tram appears in Munsu Street in Pyongyang, North Korea.
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/kernbeisser/3419728405/)

A Korean man takes a stroll on an abandoned street in Pyongyang, North Korea.
(Photo: http://www.infrastructurist.com/2009/04/07/gallery-north-koreas-secret-infrastructure/)

A female North Korean soldier delivers a lecture at the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum on April 13, 2012. (Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephferris76/6986392952/in/set-72157629532409702)

Pyongyang, North Korea (Photo: http://subjunctive.net/klog/2005/09/)

Pyongyang, near the main railway station

Pyongyang Central Train Station at night

A subway station in Pyongyang, North Korea

Commuters walk through a subway station in Pyongyang, North Korea, on March 10, 2011. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

Over 100,000 participants perform in the Mass Games held in Pyongyang, North Korea on Wednesday, August 13, 2008. (AP Photo/Wally Santana) http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2008/09/recent_scenes_from_north_korea.html

A group of Koreans sit on a bench in front of the statues of Kim Il Sung (left) and Kim Jong Il (right) in downtown Pyongyang, North Korea on April 14, 2012. (Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephferris76/7135356257/in/set-72157629532409702)

Koreans in Pyongyang, North Korea bow their heads in front of the statues of Kim Il Sung (left) and Kim Jong Il (right) riding on horseback on Sunday, April 14, 2013. (REUTERS/Kyodo)

A Korean man in Communist North Korea is detained by members of the North Korean secret police.

Wonsan-Hamhung Countryside in North Korea on April 18, 2012
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephferris76/6993153876/in/set-72157629532409702)

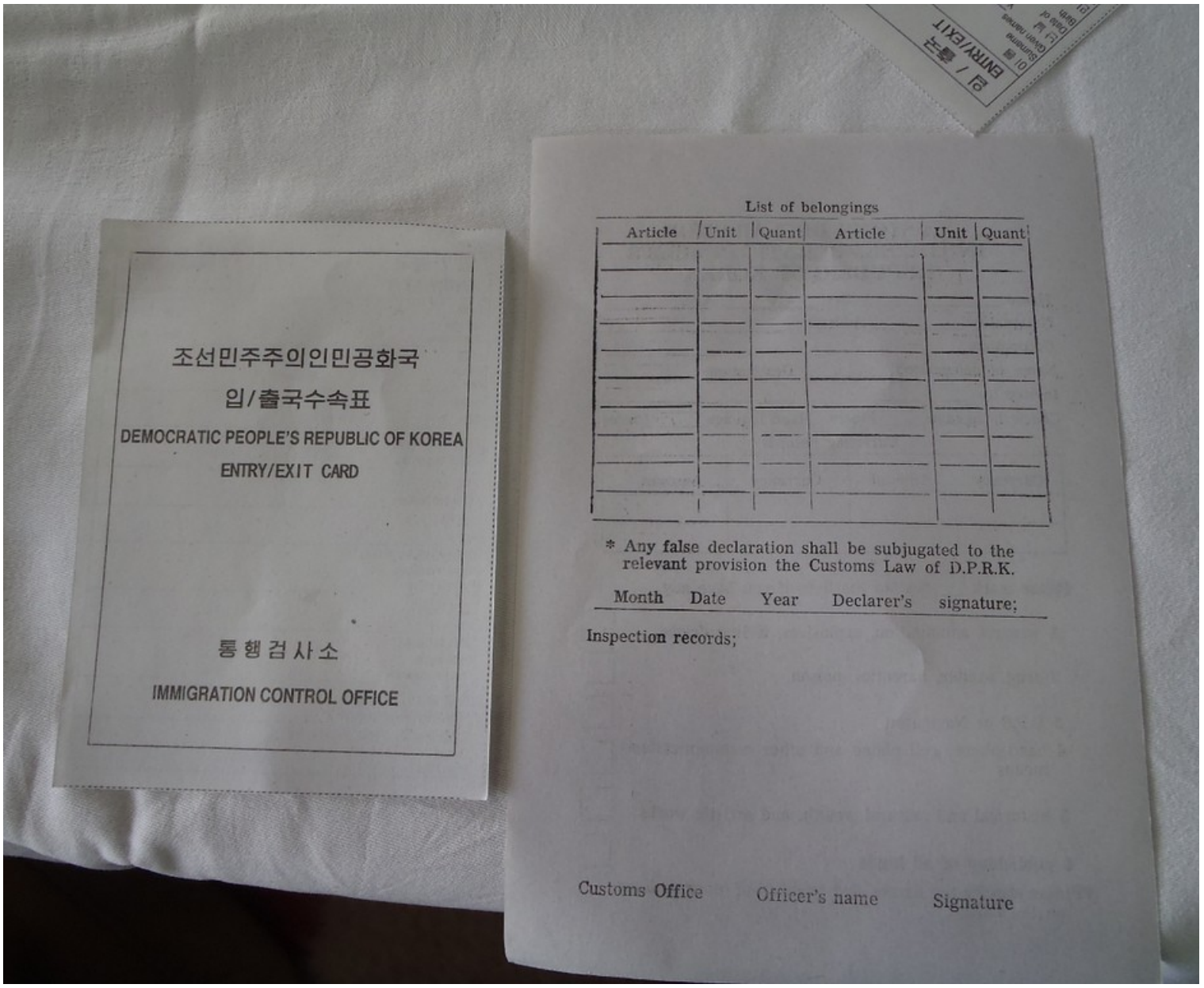
North Korean women work in front of a building with a picture of late leader Kim Il-sung in the city of Hyesan on April 5, 2009.
(Reuters/Reinhard Krause)

The Tumen River, at the border between North Korea and Communist China, and the bridge which crosses the Tumen River into North Korea. The picture was taken from the Communist Chinese side of the Tumen River at Tumen City; the city of Namyang, North Korea is across the river.

A North Korean man paddles his boat along the banks of the Yalu River in front of one of the destroyed bridges that once linked Red China and North Korea, near the town of Qing Cheng, located around 50 kilometers north of the Chinese border city of Dandong on September 12, 2008. (REUTERS/David Gray) http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2008/09/recent_scenes_from_north_korea.html

Eric Lafforgue: "The highways in North Korea are huge and carless. Planes could land there. You can even see kids playing in the middle of the road. Security is a major problem because children and old people are not used to seeing cars, so they cross over the roads at any time, without watching out for oncoming traffic. The only cars you can see sometimes on highways are military ones, and most of them are stopped by the side of road, broken down. Or you can also see brand new Mercedes cars belonging to the North Korean officials passing by at very high speeds." (© Eric Lafforgue) http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2008/09/recent_scenes_from_north_korea.html

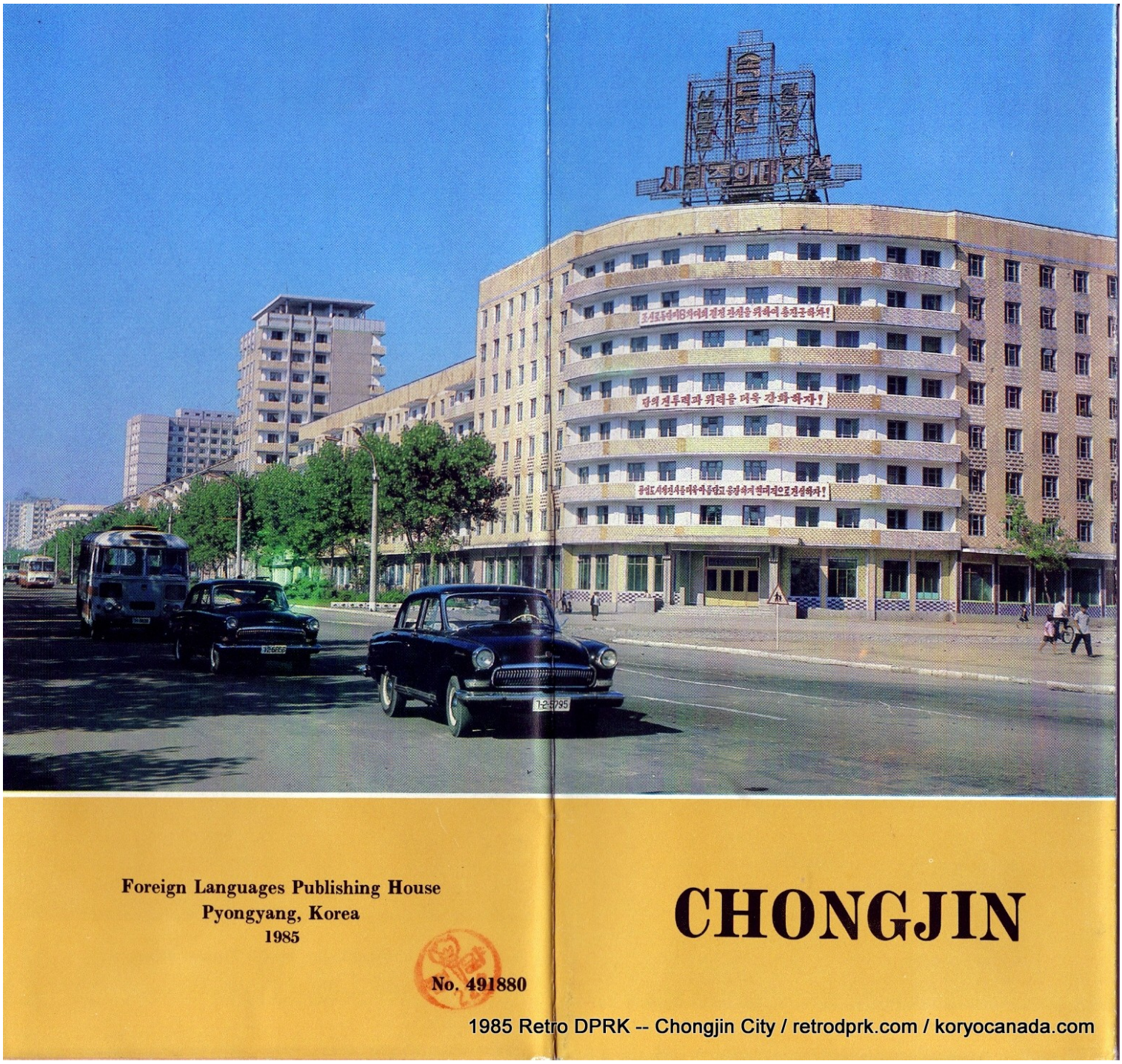
Portions of the Communist China-North Korea border remain porous. A Communist Chinese guard watched as two men crossed into North Korea at Onsong. (Photo: Du Bin for The New York Times)



A photo of a North Korean entry/exit card and customs form

A North Korean soldier observes “enemy action” with a binocular at the Truce Village at Panmunjom, Korea.

North Korean currency (Photo: Flickr)



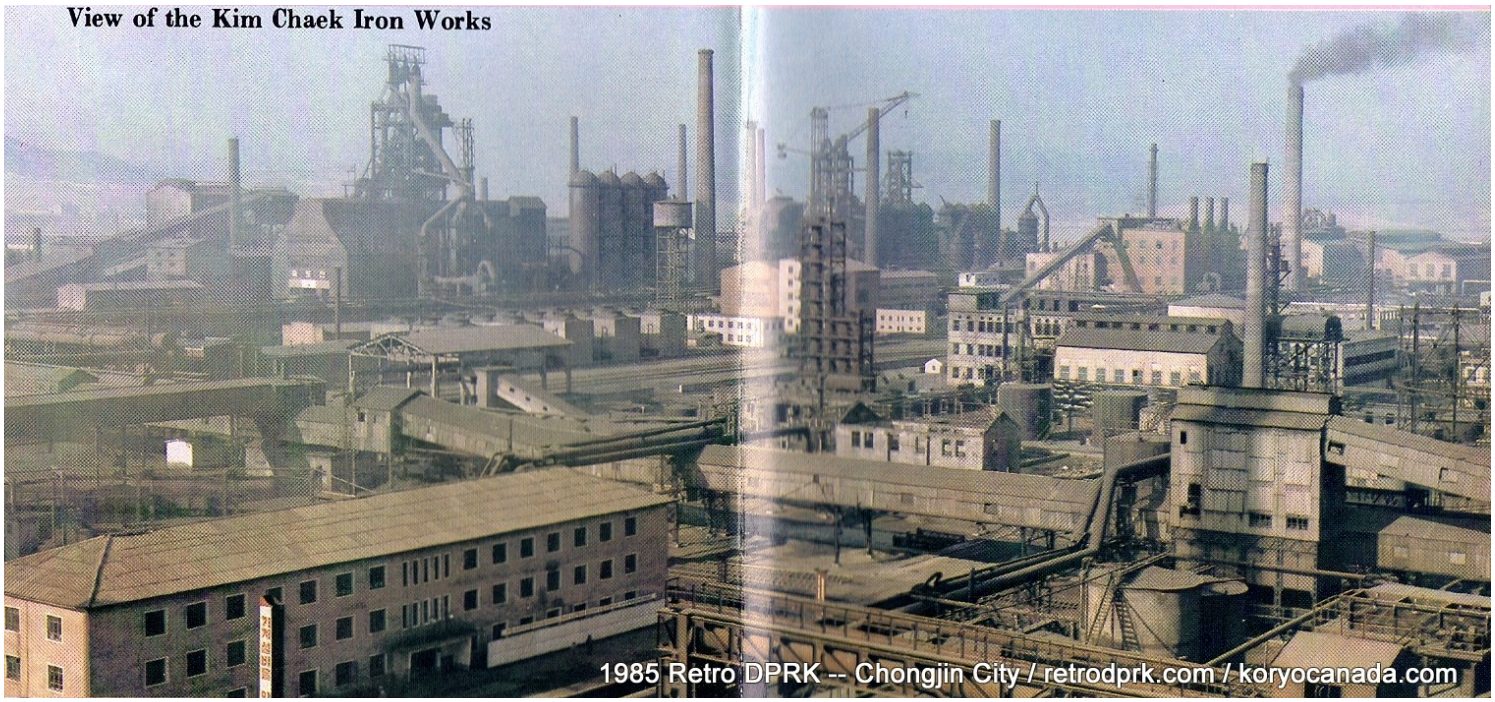
Foreign Languages Publishing House
Pyongyang, Korea
1985

CHONGJIN

No. 491880

1985 Retro DPRK -- Chongjin City / retrodprk.com / koryocanada.com

A photo of Chongjin, North Korea in 1985. Chongjin, located on the eastern coast of North Korea, is the third largest city in North Korea. (Photo: http://www.retrodprk.com/2012/12/1985-chongjin-city.html)



A photo of Chongjin, North Korea in 1985. Chongjin, located on the eastern coast of North Korea, is the third largest city in North Korea. (Photo: http://www.retrodprk.com/2012/12/1985-chongjin-city.html)

Residents of Chongjin, North Korea ride on their bicycles on their way to work on June 19, 2013.
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/zaruka/9170762849/in/photostream/)

A view of Sinuiju, North Korea (background) and Friendship Bridge (left) from Dandong, Communist China (Photo: Flickr)

A view of Sinuiju, North Korea (background) and Friendship Bridge (left) from Dandong, Communist China (Photo: Flickr)

Sinuiju, North Korea and the Yalu River

North Korean naval vessels (Photo: Flickr)

Sinuiju Train Station, North Korea (Photo: Flickr)

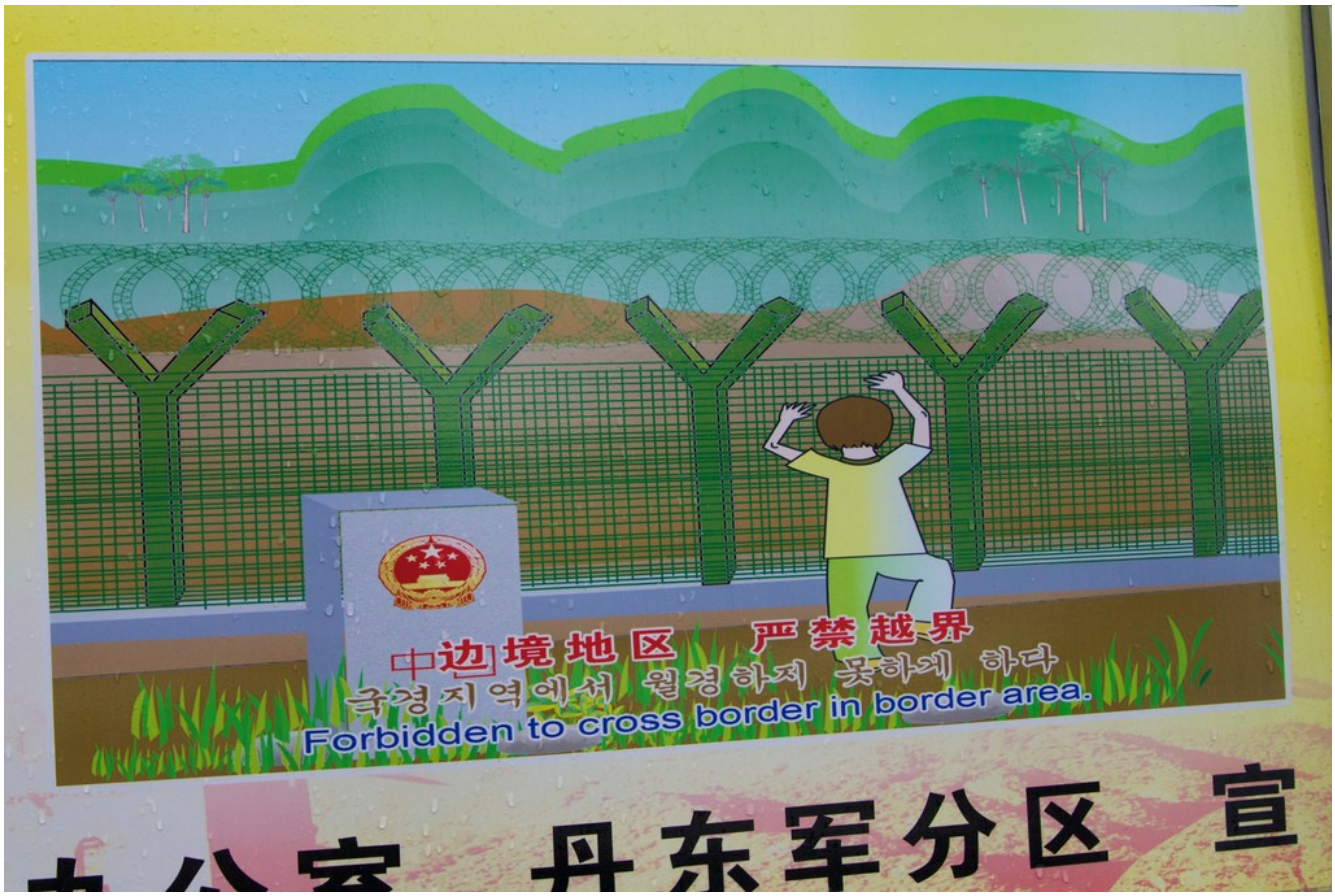
Sinuiju Railway Station, North Korea (located by the Yalu River)

A North Korean soldier points a gun at a photographer on the banks of the Yalu River near the border town of Sinuiju, across from Dandong, Communist China on April 15, 2009. (Reuters/Stringer)

A group of North Korean construction workers are seen paving a road in the border town of Sinuiju, North Korea, located on the Yalu River, on April 23, 2012. (Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephferris76/7594728664/in/set-72157629532409702)

A border poster displayed at the Chinese-North Korean Border at Dandong, China
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephferris76/6995624062/in/set-72157629532409702/)

A border poster displayed at the Chinese-North Korean Border at Dandong, China
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephferris76/7141711079/in/set-72157629532409702)



A border poster displayed at the Chinese-North Korean Border at Dandong, China
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephferris76/6995623662/in/set-72157629532409702/)

A border poster displayed at the Chinese-North Korean Border at Dandong, China
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephferris76/6995623822/in/set-72157629532409702)

Two Korean women are watched by a North Korean prison guard inside a concentration camp. (AP Photo)

A North Korean prison guard kicks a prisoner and tortures prisoners in a concentration camp.

Mental hygiene in North Korea: Koreans in Communist North Korea are taught to worship their "Dear Leader" Kim Jong Il and "Dear Leader" Kim Il Sung and taught the "values" of Communism and Marxism.

Social hygiene in North Korea: North Korea's "Dear Leader" Kim Jong Il and his Communist cadre continue to build their military machine while Korean children in North Korea succumb to starvation and disease.

North Korea's "Dear Leader" Kim Jong Il appear at a Communist Party meeting in circa 2009. Kim Jong Il and his Communist cadre continue to promote eugenics and genocide in the name of Communism and "national security".

North Korean Prison Camp Survivor: Starving Women Cooked & Ate Their Own Children

Billy Hallowell

Oct. 21, 2011 12:15pm

Kim Hye Sook suffered unbearable pain and emotional suffering when she was detained for 28 years in a secretive North Korean concentration camp. Brutal executions, starvation — even mothers killing and eating their children to ensure their own survival — were regular occurrences.

Kim — who miraculously escaped from the Bukchang prison camp back in 2003 – granted CBN News with the first American television news interview to discuss these horrendous conditions. She now lives in South Korea, with the details of her escape remaining classified for security reasons. This summer, she released a memoir entitled, "A Concentration Camp Retold in Tears."

When she was 13-year-old, her tragic tale began. The year was 1975 and in the blink of an eye the young girl was captured alongside her entire family. After years of suffering, she didn't taste freedom until she was 41-years-old. Kim explains:

"My entire family went to prison. Some were taken to the mountains; others were put in different labor camps all because of my grandfather's one mistake: he escaped to South Korea during the Korean War."

Today, Kim wears dark glasses to ensure that her identity remains concealed. While she lost seven family members in the re-education camp, she currently has two sisters and a brother who are still imprisoned. She described a typical day at the camp:

"I attended indoctrination classes in the morning. In the afternoon the children were sent to push trolleys in the coal mines, often without any safety gear.

People were dying in the mines. There were numerous mine collapses, so many injuries, people who lost their legs, many who were buried alive. It was horrible.

I was treated like a slave and worse. I hardly slept. It was inhuman. But I never complained. I just followed all the rules. I had to find a way to survive."

Kim claims that the conditions were so terrible that she thought about committing suicide "hundreds of thousands of times" during her 28-year detention. But because there was always someone watching her, this simply wasn't an option:

"Each prisoner is assigned to watch four or five other prisoners. So if anything happens, the other prisoners would alert the guards because they didn't want to get into trouble themselves."

While her descriptions of executions are absolutely horrendous, nothing is more disturbing than her memories about those individuals who she saw kill their children in an effort to stave off hunger. In one instance, she recalls **a mother boiling her 9-year-old daughter**. In another fit of desperation, **a woman killed her 16-year-old son, chopped him up and took him to a butcher to obtain some corn in exchange**.

Kim admits that these details are difficult to share, but she bravely proclaims, "I want the world to see these images and to hear my testimony." In describing the conditions in the isolated and volatile nation, she says, "I am living proof that there are no human rights in North Korea." In September, she was invited to Washington, D.C., where she testified before a congressional panel about the conditions she faced.

Source: http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2011/10/21/nkorean-prison-camp-survivor-starving-women-cooked-ate-their-own-children/

American evangelist preacher Billy Graham visits North Korea's dictator Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang, North Korea on April 2, 1992. (Photo: http://www.holdme-jesus.com/2012/06/noord-korea-en-de-vervolgde-kerk.html)

Left photo: American evangelist preacher Billy Graham visits North Korea's dictator Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang, North Korea on April 2, 1992.
Right photo: Reverend Sun Myung Moon and his wife Mrs. Moon meet with North Korea's President Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang, North Korea in 1991. (Photo: http://www.familyfed.org/about/index.php?id=2)

The family of Dictator Kim Il-sung were devout Christians
By Joseph Yun Li-sun
April 28, 2011

The parents of the Father of North Korea were well known to Korea's Christian community in the 1940s. To eliminate religion and impose his cult of personality, as ordered by Stalin, the 'eternal president' repudiated his parents and turned them into Communist heroes. However, before an operation, he asked a doctor to pray together to God.

Seoul (AsiaNews) – The parents of Kim Il-sung, grandparents of current North Korean Dictator Kim Jong-il, were devout Christians. The son, later known as the 'eternal president' of North Korea, had to repudiate their religion, pushed by the Soviets, in order to eliminate all of the country's religions and replace them with his own cult of personality. However, this was not fully accomplished since even Kim the first, before a surgical operation, prayed with his doctor.

Some North Korean exiles that fled south have made these revelations. The foremost of them is certainly Kim Hyun-sik, who today teaches at Yale University after spending 38 years at Pyongyang's most prestigious college.

According to him, both Kim Hyong-jik and Kang Ban-sok (Kim Il-sung's father and mother) were not only Christian, but were also devout. Ban-sok is actually the Korean name for Peter, which was also given to baby girls.

In North Korea, people are organised in 51 classes. The top three are the most loyal to the Kim family and its cult of personality, which requires worship for the 'eternal president' and his son, the 'dear leader', as the country's only deities.

Anyone practicing another religion or found with religious material is treated as "hostile" and banned from the country's public life.

Even though Kim Il-sung's was very close to his parents, he was "convinced" by Stalin to crack down on their religion. Still, in his autobiography, the president acknowledged that they attended church, albeit "to take a rest (at a church)." They became widely known among North Korean Christians the 1940s; however, their life was eventually used by the new regime for propaganda purposes.

His mother in fact is celebrated today as "the mother of Chosun who gave birth to and raised the Great Leader of revolution, indomitable Champion of the Communist Revolution," the "champion who conducted the Chosun women's movement". His father became "a great pioneer of Marxism, fighting his entire life against capitalism, saving his homeland."

However, there is evidence that the process of historical reconstruction did not entirely rid Kim Il-sing's of his Christian past. Some witnesses say that prior to an important surgery, Kim prayed with a doctor. Indeed, when the doctor offered to pray before the surgery, Kim Il-Sung responded, "Pray for me." They then prayed together.

Since the instauration of the Communist regime in 1953, some 300,000 Christians have disappeared. The country has no more priests or nuns, killed perhaps during the wave of persecution. At present, about 100,000 languish in labour camps victims of hunger, torture and even death.

Former North Korean officials and prisoners have said that in re-education camps and prisons Christians are singled out for harsher treatment.

Likewise, no one knows the fate of the country's Catholic bishops. According to the Pontifical Yearbook, the capital's bishop is still in his post.

Pyongyang claims that the country enjoys religious freedom, guaranteed by the constitution. Officially, there are 10,000 Buddhists, 10,000 Protestants and 4,000 Catholics registered with recognised associations. In Pyongyang, there are three churches, two Protestant and one Catholic.

However, sources have told *AsiaNews* that Catholics are no more than 200 who have not attended any religious service for decades.

Source: http://www.asianews.it/news-en/The-family-of-Dictator-Kim-Il-sung-were-devout-Christians-21409.html

PROFILE: Kim Il Sung

Kim Il Sung was born to a Christian family on April 15, 1912 in South Pyongan province in today's North Korea, which then was under Japanese occupation. Kim Il Sung's maternal grandfather was a pastor and both of his parents were active members of their church.

When Kim Il sung was 8 years old, his family moved north to Manchuria in Northeast China. At 17, he joined a Chinese Communist organization and began fighting the occupying Japanese army. At 28, he escaped to the Soviet Union when the Japanese army chased him and a few hundred men out of China.

The Soviets trained and made him a captain in the Red Army. When the Japanese surrendered in 1945, Stalin sent Kim into the Korean peninsula and built him an army with Soviet arms. In 1948, Kim became the Stalin-anointed Prime Minister of North Korea.

In 1950, Kim's communist army invaded the democratic South Korea and spent the next year advancing and retreating twice against the US-led United Nations force. For the subsequent two years, his army settled into a trench war more or less along the pre-war border at the 38th parallel.

When the Korean War ended in 1953, Kim rebuilt North Korea as a communist state, using the Soviet Union as a model. However, he was disappointed that Stalin hadn't come to his aid when he was retreating during the war, and cozied up to the Chinese, who had sent its army to rescue him.

When China experimented with its disastrous Cultural Revolution during the 1960s and 1970s, Kim cozied back to the Soviets. And when the Soviet Union later disintegrated, he was back in the Chinese corner.

Kim Il Sung married twice. His first wife died in 1947 while giving birth, and he married his second wife in 1962. He fathered at least 9 children, including some who were illegitimate, and died of a heart attack in 1994 at 82 years of age.

After a period of mourning that lasted a mere 3 years, Kim Jong Il made his father the President of North Korea "for eternity". Kim Il Sung's body is embalmed in a massive mausoleum in Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, the only country in the world whose head of state is a dead body.

Source: http://www.northkoreanchristians.com/kim-ilsung.html

Koreans in Pyongyang, North Korea “worship” Kim Il Sung, North Korea’s Communist leader and former Christian

Downtown Pyongyang

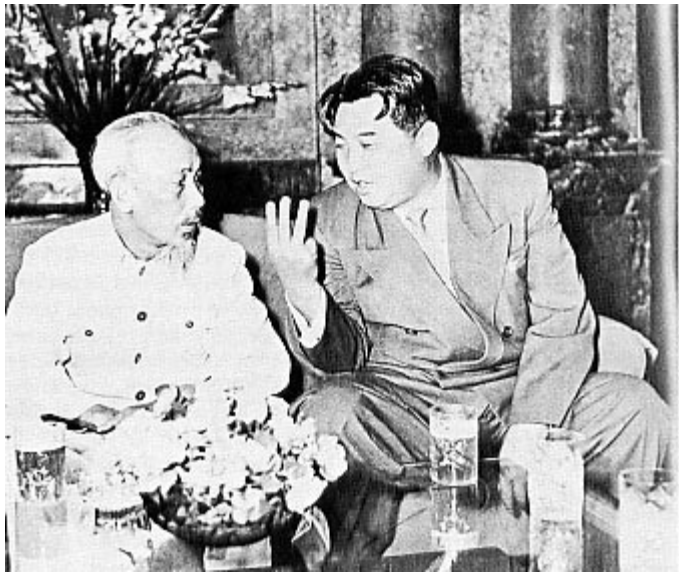
Juche Tower, a symbol of Communist propaganda, in Pyongyang, North Korea

The Arch of Triumph in Pyongyang was built to commemorate the Korean resistance to Japan from 1925 to 1945. The structure is modelled after the Arc de Triomphe and was deliberately built to be slightly larger than the one in Paris. (Photo: Flickr)

The Arch of Triumph in Pyongyang, North Korea (Photo: Flickr)

NORTH KOREA & INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY

North Korea's dictator Kim Il Sung (center, smiling) appears with Mao Tse-tung and Chou Enlai (seen standing to the right side of Kim).



North Korea's dictator Kim Il Sung visits North Vietnam's dictator Ho Chi Minh in Hanoi. Kim visited North Vietnam at least twice in secret.

Communist North Korea's Prime Minister Kim Il Sung (right) and Communist China's Premier Chou Enlai wave to crowds after arriving in Peking [Beijing], Communist China on a state visit on December 12, 1958. (© Bettmann/CORBIS)

Vice-Chaiman and Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping (Deng Xiaoping) (left) have a cordial and friendly conversation with North Korea's General Secretary and President Kim Il Sung on September 9, 1978. (© Bettmann/CORBIS)

North Korea's Communist despot Kim Il Sung presents an award to Cuba's communist despot Fidel Castro (left) in 1986. (Photo: http://www.akfa.org/modules.php?name=Page&p=photos_sung)

Cuba's Communist rebel Che Guevara (left) greets North Korea's despot Kim Il Sung in 1960.

Argentina-born Cuban Communist terrorist Che Guevara meets with North Korean Secretary-General of the Worker's Party Kim Il-Sung in Pyongyang, North Korea in 1960. The woman at the right of the picture is the translator.
(Photo: University of Miami Libraries. Cuban Heritage Collection) http://merrick.library.miami.edu/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/cubanphotos&CISOPTR=159&CISOBOX=1&REC=1

Kim Jong Il greets Tanzania's leader Julius K Nierere.

Yugoslavia’s Commissar Josip Broz Tito stands next to North Korea’s Commissar Kim Il Sung.

North Korea’s despot Kim Il Sung greets Romania’s ruler Nicolae Ceauşescu in North Korea in 1971.

North Korea’s dictator Kim Jong Il shakes hands with Russia’s President Vladimir Putin during an official visit in Pyongyang, North Korea on July 19, 2000. (© EPA/Corbis)

Russia’s President Vladimir Putin shakes hands with North Korea’s dictator Kim Jong Il upon Putin's arrival at an airport in Pyongyang, North Korea on July 19, 2000. (© Itar-TASS/EPA/Corbis)

North Korea's dictator Kim Jong Il (left) and Russia's President Vladimir Putin (right) inspect the North Korean army at an airport in Pyongyang, North Korea on July 19, 2000. (© ITAR-TASS/POOL/EPA/Corbis)

Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, listens to North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, during their meeting in Moscow, Russia on Saturday, August 4, 2001. (AP Photo/ITAR-TASS/ Presidential Press Service)
https://aibob.wordpress.com/2011/12/25/kim-jong-il-1942-2011/

North Korea's dictator Kim Jong Il meets with Russia's President Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev (born September 14, 1965) on August 24, 2011. Kim Jong Il died in North Korea on December 17, 2011.
(Photo: Presidential Press and Information Office)

North Korea's dictator Kim Jong Il meets with Russia's President Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev on August 24, 2011.
(Photo: Presidential Press and Information Office)

North Korea's dictator Kim Jong Il (left) greets Communist China's President Hu Jintao in Pyongyang.

Left: North Korea's despot Kim Jong Il greets Red China's Commissar Jiang Zemin.
Right: North Korea's Commissar Kim Jong Il (left) and Communist China's Commissar Hu Jintao inspect the North Korean army at the airport in Pyongyang, North Korea.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi (left) shakes hands with North Korea's "Dear Leader" Kim Jong-il prior to their summit talks at the Paekhwawon state guesthouse in Pyongyang, North Korea on September 17, 2002. Koizumi was in Pyongyang for talks with North Korea's "Dear Leader" Kim Jong-il that Japan hopes will lead to a normalization of diplomatic ties and ease security tensions in the region and the world. Japan does not maintain diplomatic relations with North Korea yet. The North Korean government under Kim Il Sung kidnapped numerous Japanese women and girls in Japan and smuggled them to North Korea during the 1970s, mostly with the assistance of the Japanese Red Army, a Japanese terrorist organization. (Photo: Pool/Getty Images)

Left: Russia's President Vladimir Putin meeting with North Korea's "Dear Leader" Kim Jong Il in Moscow, Russia on August 4, 2001. (Photo: Presidential Press and Information Office)

Right: From Russia With Love: North Korea's "Dear Leader" Kim Jong Il kisses Russia's President Vladimir Putin. (http://media.photobucket.com/image/putin%20kim%20jong%20il/IronCross1985/putin_kim.jpg)

North Korea's Foreign Minister Pak Ui Chun (left), who previously served as North Korea's Ambassador to Russia, greets Communist Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez in Havana, Cuba on May 4, 2009. (AFP-Yonhap)

Communist Cuba's President Raul Castro shakes hands with North Korea's Foreign Minister Pak Ui Chun in Havana, Cuba on May 4, 2009. (Reuters)

South Korea's President Kim Dae Jung (right) greets North Korea's dictator Kim Jong Il.
(Photo: http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/dprk/kim-jong-il.htm)

South Korea's President Kim Dae Jung (left) celebrates with North Korea's dictator Kim Jong Il.
(Photo: http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/dprk/kim-jong-il.htm)

South Korea's President Roh Moo-hyun, right, and North Korea's dictator Kim Jong Il, left, inspect honor guard together in Pyongyang, North Korea on October 2, 2007. (AP Photo)

South Korea's President Roh Moo-Hyun (L) shares a toast with North Korea's "Dear Leader" Kim Jong-Il during a luncheon hosted by Kim for the two Korea Summit in Pyongyang, North Korea on October 4, 2007. (AFP/Getty Images)

"Sunshine Policy" or appeasement?: South Korea's President Kim Dae Jung and other South Korean government officials are seen celebrating with North Korea's communist despot Kim Jong Il. (Photo: http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/dprk/kim-jong-il.htm)

South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun (C), his wife Kwon Yang-Suk (L) and North Korea's "Dear Leader" Kim Jong-Il toast during a luncheon hosted by Kim for the two Korea Summit in Pyongyang, North Korea on October 4, 2007. (AFP/Getty Images)

Park Geun-Hye (박근혜; 朴槿惠, second from left), the daughter of Park Chung-hee, the former strongman of South Korea, appears with North Korea's "Dear Leader" Kim Jong-Il (center) in Pyongyang, North Korea in May 2002. Park Geun-Hye was elected as the new President of South Korea on December 19, 2012; Madame Park was inaugurated as President of South Korea on February 25, 2013.
(Photo: http://terrorpolitics.blogspot.com/)

Two clandestine envoys from the North, Ho Dam (left) and Han Se Hae are greeted by President Chun in a mansion near Seoul in 1985. Such secret North-South meetings were numerous. (*Joong-ang Photo*)

President of South Korea Chun Doo Hwan greets North Korean envoys Ho Dam (left) and Han Se Hae (center) in a mansion near Seoul, South Korea in 1985.

South Korean CIA chief Lee Hu Rak secretly meets North Korean leader Kim Il Sung in May 1972 to begin the high-level dialogue between the two Korean states. (*Joong-ang Photo*)

South Korean CIA chief Lee Hu Rak secretly meets with North Korean "Dear Leader" Kim Il Sung in May 1972.

NORTH KOREAN MILITARY MACHINE

Female soldiers and their antiaircraft artillery parade through Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang, North Korea, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2008. North Korea marked the 60th anniversary of its founding Tuesday amid news reports that the communist country's leader Kim Jong Il did not attend a closely watched parade amid recent speculation that he may be ill. (AP Photo/Kyodo News)
http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2008/09/recent_scenes_from_north_korea.html

This file photo from October 2005 shows North Korean People's Army soldiers marching at Kim Il-Sung Square in Pyongyang in a military parade to mark the 60th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea. (KCNA via AFP/Getty Images)

Kim Jong Il and his Communist regime display their military weaponry in a military parade in Pyongyang while the people of North Korea continue to suffer from starvation, malnutrition, and famine.

North Korea's dictator Kim Il Sung (left) appears with his son Kim Jong Il in an undated photo. (CORBIS SYGMA)

In this image made from KRT video, and made available for the first time Tuesday April 7, 2009, showing the launch of a missile in Musudan-ni, North Korea on Sunday, April 5, 2009.

A missile fired from North Korea would have to travel 4500 miles before it reached the U.S. state of Hawaii.
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1193941/North-Korea-plan-missile-launch-Hawaii-Independence-Day.html

Left: North Korea's Taepodong-2 missile, which has a range of 4000 miles. Hawaii is 4500 miles away from North Korea.
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1193941/North-Korea-plan-missile-launch-Hawaii-Independence-Day.html

Right: A North Korean political propaganda poster

North Korea — Korean Central News Agency said to restore its previously disabled nuclear facilities after they quitted six-party talks and sent the IAEA inspectors home saying “We will take steps to restore disabled nuclear facilities … and reprocess used fuel rods that came from experimental nuclear reactors,”.
(Source: http://newssum.com/2009/04/14/north-korea-to-restore-nuclear-facilities/)

A 2002 satellite image of the Yongbyon nuclear reactor in North Korea.
(Photo: http://www.sanfranciscosentinel.com/?p=18838)

North Korea's "Dear Leader" Kim Jong Il inspect the command of the 7th Infantry Division of the North Korean People's Army.
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1193941/North-Korea-plan-missile-launch-Hawaii-Independence-Day.html

Representatives clap their hands during the 12th Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea at the Mansudae assembly hall in Pyongyang, communist-occupied Korea on April 9, 2009, in this picture released by the North's official news agency KCNA on Thursday. Kim Jong-il appeared at his first major event since he was suspected of suffering a stroke last year when parliament re-elected him the country's supreme military leader on Thursday.

North Korea's despot Kim Jong-il visits a military base at an undisclosed location in North Korea. (Reuters/KCNA)
http://www.abc.net.au/news/photos/2008/10/12/2388574.htm

A military parade in Pyongyang, North Korea (Photo: Military Photos)

A military parade in Pyongyang, North Korea (Photo: Military Photos)

A military parade in Pyongyang, North Korea (Photo: Military Photos)

A military parade in Pyongyang, North Korea (Photo: Military Photos)

A military parade in Pyongyang, North Korea

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A military parade in Pyongyang, North Korea

This file handout picture dated 25 April 1992 shows a North Korean communist military unit of missile carriers during a military parade in Pyongyang, North Korea. (AFP/Getty Images)

North Korea launched a series of missiles in May 2009. (AFP: Korean Central News Agency, file photo)

North Korean soldiers, carrying a large portrait of late North Korean tyrant Kim Il Sung, march during a grand military parade to celebrate the 75th founding anniversary of the KPA at the Kim Il Sung square in Pyongyang, “North” (Communist occupied) Korea on April 25, 2007. North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il inspected the parade. (AFP/Getty Images)

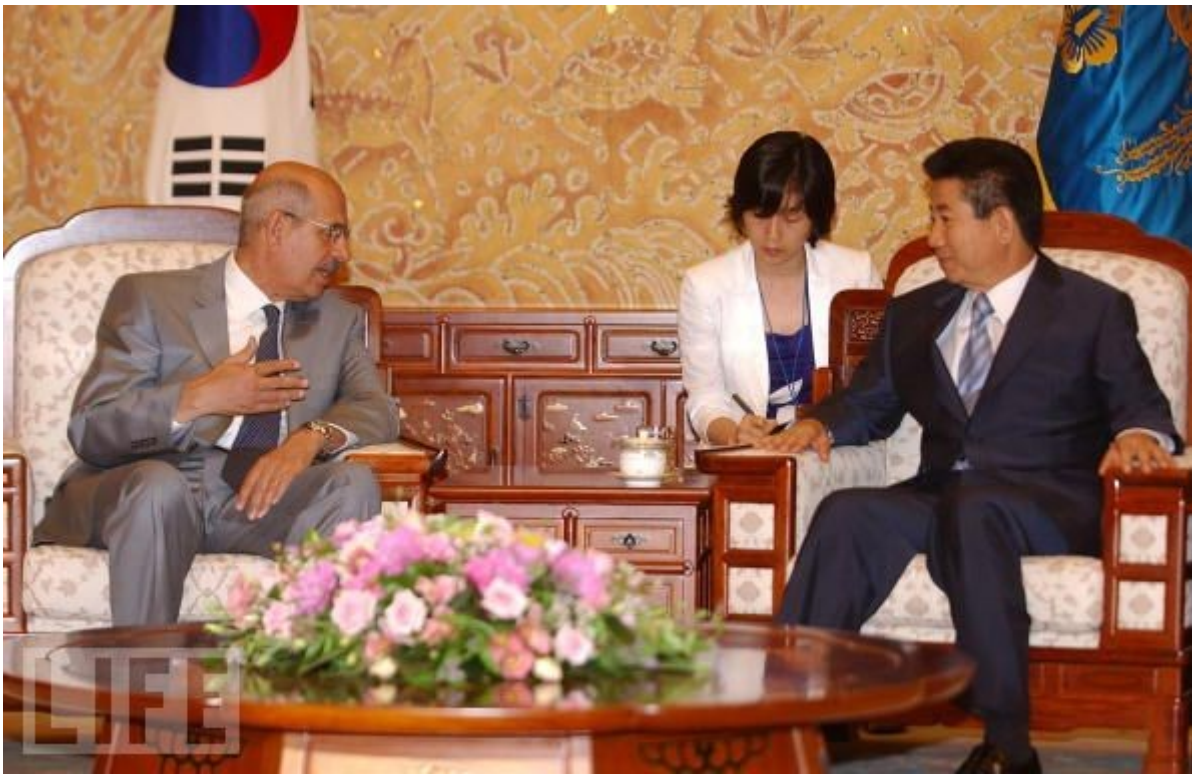
The North Korean communist army marches in a parade in Pyongyang, North Korea on October 10, 2005. (AFP/Getty Images)

High-level North Korean officials take part in a mass meeting celebrating the country's 60th birthday in this picture distributed by North Korea's official news agency KCNA in Pyongyang on September 8, 2008. The portrait in the huge North Korean national flag is the state founder and "Great Leader" Kim-Il Sung. The right side letters read, "Celebrate 60th birthday". North Korea's foundation day falls on September 9, 2008. (REUTERS/KCNA) http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2008/09/recent_scenes_from_north_korea.html

North Korean citizens and soldiers participate in celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the founding of North Korea in Pyongyang, North Korea on September 9, 2008, in this picture distributed by North Korea's official news agency KCNA on September 10, 2008. (REUTERS/KCNA) http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2008/09/recent_scenes_from_north_korea.html

North Korean soldiers parade through Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang, North Korea on September 9, 2008. (AP Photo/Kyodo News)
http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2008/09/recent_scenes_from_north_korea.html

A Communist Party rally in downtown Pyongyang, North Korea



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Mohamed El Baradei (L) talks with South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun during their meeting in Seoul, South Korea on July 11, 2007. U.N. nuclear inspectors are expected to arrive in North Korea on July 14, 2007 to verify a promised shutdown of the country's nuclear reactor and source of arms-grade plutonium, the head of the IAEA said. (Photo: Pool/Getty Images)

ElBaradei: N. Korea has nuke weapons

Published: April 24, 2009 at 10:29 AM

BEIJING, April 24 (UPI) -- **North Korea has nuclear weapons and the ability to deliver them**, says International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei.

Speaking in Beijing, Elbaradei told reporters, **"North Korea has nuclear weapons, which is a matter of fact. I don't like to accept any country as a nuclear weapon state but we have to face reality,"** The Times of London reported Friday.

ElBaradei said the addition of North Korea as a "fully fledged nuclear power" makes nine countries in the world that have the capability of launching a nuclear missile. They include the United States, Russia, Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan and Israel.

His comments came as Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov warned after meeting with North Korean Foreign Minister Pak Ui-chun that there would be no easy road to persuading Pyongyang to return to negotiations aimed at brokering a nuclear disarmament.

"We do not foresee any breakthroughs," Lavrov told Russia's Interfax news agency. "This is a complicated process and we must not give in to emotions."

North Korea has said it would end all negotiations and would restart its nuclear weapons program after it was censured by the U.N. Security Council for testing a missile earlier this month.

Source: http://74.125.47.132/search?q=cache:7A-mOYobrXgJ:www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/04/24/ElBaradei-N-Korea-has-nuke-weapons/UPI-78191240583386/+elbaradei+north+korea&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us

From left to right: Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, South Korea's Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, China's Foreign Minister Yang Jeichi, North Korean Foreign Minister Pak Ui Chun and Japan's Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura pose for a group photo before a meeting between foreign ministers of the six party nations and Rice on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, Regional Forum in Singapore Wednesday, July 23, 2008. (AP Photo/Vivek Prakash, Pool)

Hyundai Group chairwoman Hyun Jung-eun, third from left, poses for the camera with North Korea's "Dear Leader" Kim Jong-il, fourth from left, during her visit to the North Korean port city of Wonsan, Saturday. From left are Hyundai Asan executive Yuk Jai-hee; Lim Dong-ok, an official of the North's Communist Party; Hyun; Kim; Hyundai Asan vice chairman Kim Yoon-kyu; and Hyun's daughter Chung Ji-hee. (Yonhap)

North Korea's despot Kim Jong-il met with Hyun Jeong-eun, the Chairwoman of the board of Hyundai Group, in North Korea in August 2009. Hyun traveled to North Korea's capital to seek the release of the Hyundai worker as well as discuss joint projects the business group has pursued in the North that have stalled amid sharply higher inter-Korean tensions. (KCNA, via Reuters)
http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/17/world/asia/17iht-hyundaiweb.html

North Korea's "Dear Leader" Kim Jong-Il (left) appears with Hyundai executives in 1998.

Left to right: U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, North Korean envoy Kim Kye Gwan, Russian envoy Alexei Borodavkin, Red Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, South Korean envoy Kim Sook, and Japanese envoy Akitaka Saiki join hands during Six Party Talks on the North Korean nuclear issue in Beijing, Red China on July 10, 2008. The United States, North Korea, South Korea, Red China, Japan and Russia participated in the talks. North Korea has declared it has produced approximately 40 kilograms of enriched plutonium since 1986 and has begun dismantling its nuclear production facilities. (Photo by Greg Baker/Getty Images AsiaPac)

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg (L) watches as Red China's Vice Foreign Minister and chief Red Chinese envoy for North Korea Wu Dawei (C) shakes hands with U.S. special envoy for North Korea Stephen Bosworth during their meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing, Red China on June 5, 2009. James Steinberg and Stephen Bosworth are members of the Council on Foreign Relations. (Reuters)

North Korea & Special Interests:

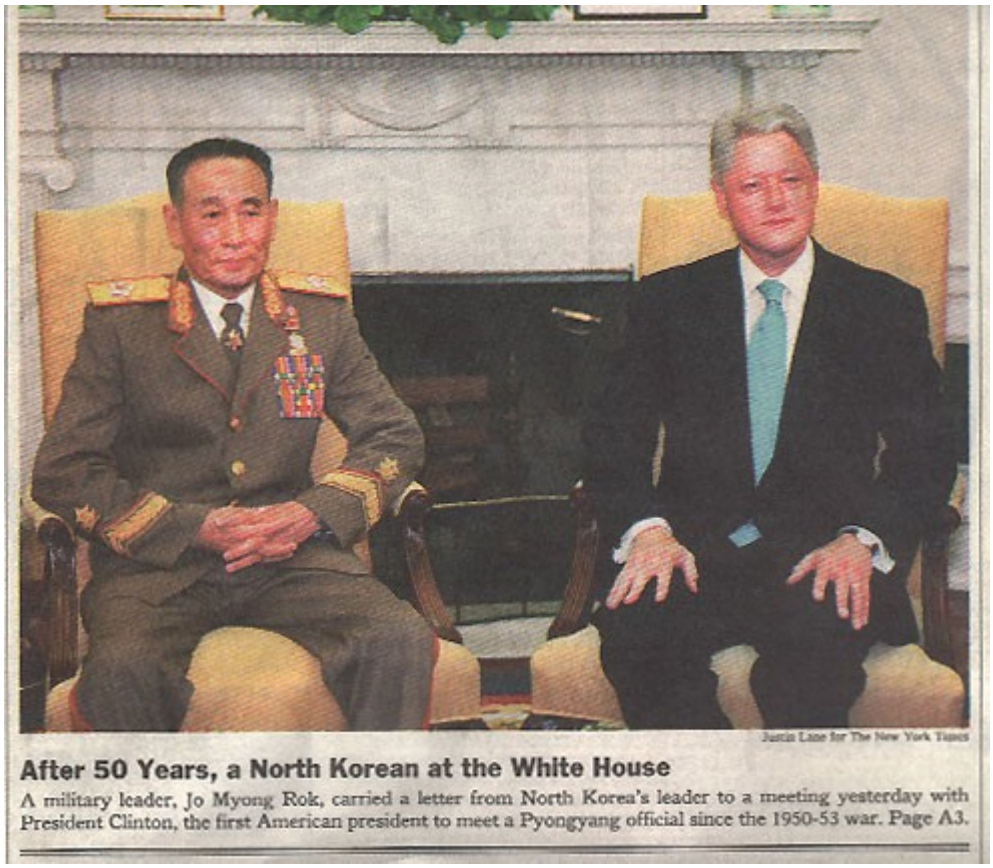
Council on Foreign Relations and Wall Street (New York City)

United States Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright toasts North Korea's dictator Kim Jong Il at a dinner in Pyongyang, North Korea on October 24, 2000. Madeline Albright is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private foreign affairs organization in New York City. (REUTERS/Chien-min Chung/Pool)

Kim Jong Il (right), the “Dear Leader” of North Korea, and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (left) walk towards a conference room at the Pae Kha Hawon Guest House in Pyongyang, North Korea on October 23, 2000. Madeline Albright is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private foreign affairs organization in New York City. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder, Pool)

Kim Jong Il (left), the “Dear Leader” of North Korea, shakes hands with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright at the Pae Kha Hawon Guest House in Pyongyang, North Korea on October 23, 2000. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder, Pool)

Former U.S. president Bill Clinton (seated L) and North Korea's despot Kim Jong-il (seated R) pose for a picture in Pyongyang, North Korea on August 4, 2009 in this photo released by North Korean official news agency KCNA. The man standing in the center is former White House Chief of Staff John Podesta. John Podesta is a member of the Trilateral Commission. **The Clinton administration provided North Korea with two light-water nuclear reactors during the late 1990s.** (Reuters)



Justin Lane for The New York Times

After 50 Years, a North Korean at the White House

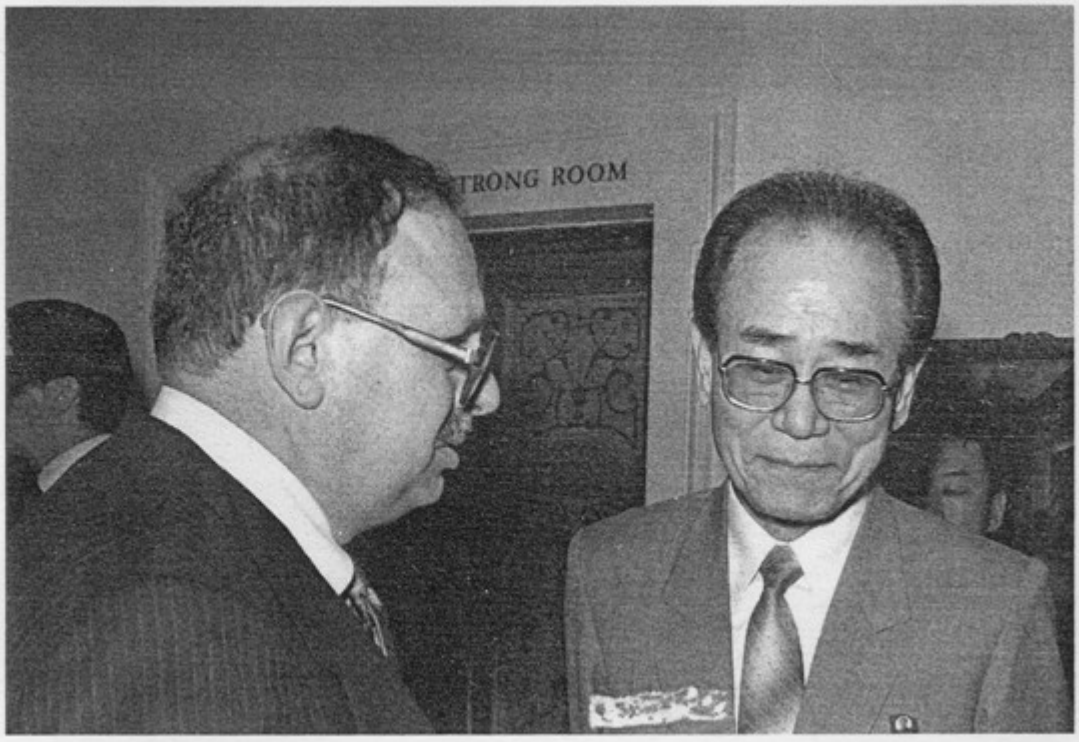
A military leader, Jo Myong Rok, carried a letter from North Korea's leader to a meeting yesterday with President Clinton, the first American president to meet a Pyongyang official since the 1950-53 war. Page A3.

Jo Myong Rok, first vice chairman of North Korea's National Defense Commission, visits President Bill Clinton at the White House. (Photo: New York Times) (Source: http://www.mishalov.com/northkorea_u.s.html)

Vice Chairman of the North Korean Defense Commission Jo Myong-Rok (left) meets with America's President Bill Clinton at the White House on October 10, 2000. Jo was the highest-ranking North Korean official to visit Washington, D.C. since the beginning of the Korean War. (© Ron Sachs/CNP/Sygma/Corbis)

Former President Jimmy Carter receives a gift from North Korea's dictator Kim Il Sung during his visit to North Korea in 1994.

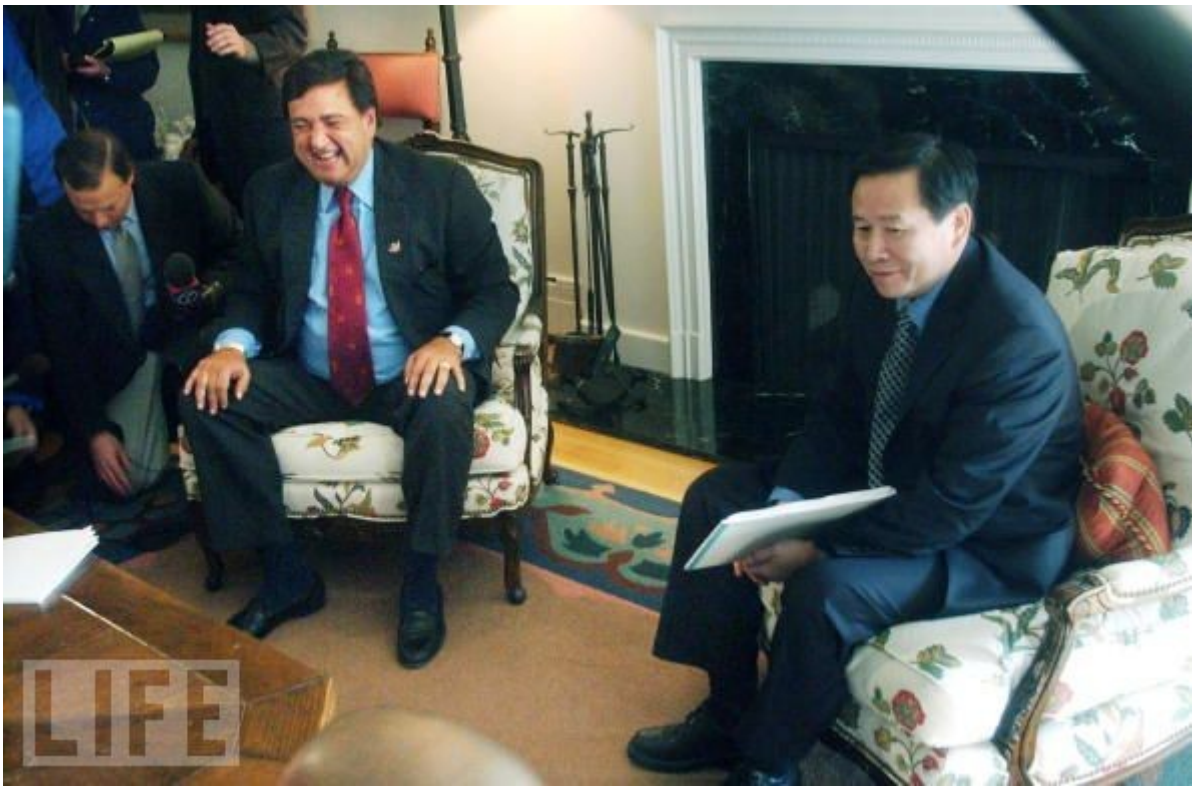
Program



Presider James Klurfeld and Speaker Kim Yong Nam, Vice Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, at the October 3, 1991, Roundtable Luncheon, "Current Developments in the International Situation and Approaches to the Solution of the Korean Issue"

This photograph was published in the 1992 Council on Foreign Relations Annual Report.

Former President Jimmy Carter visits North Korea's tyrant Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang, North Korea in 1994. Kim Il Sung invaded South Korea in 1950 and killed thousands of Americans during the Korean War. Kim Il Sung lived from April 15, 1912 until his death on July 8, 1994.



New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson (L) meets with North Korean First Secretary Mun Jong Chol at the governor's mansion in Santa Fe, New Mexico, U.S.A. on January 10, 2003. The North Koreans met with Bill Richardson about Pyongyang's nuclear threat since he has had extensive dealings with the communist country. Richardson's role is to listen to the North Koreans and report back to U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. Bill Richardson is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson (L) is greeted by North Korean official upon his arrival at an airport in Pyongyang, North Korea in this picture released by North Korea's official KCNA news agency on December 16, 2010. (Reuters)

Council on Foreign Relations & South Korea

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (left) greets South Korean President-elect Lee Myung-bak during their meeting in Seoul, Republic of Korea on February 21, 2008. A Korean independent counsel cleared Lee of financial fraud allegations that had clouded his rise to high office on February 21, 2008. Lee Myung-bak was inaugurated President of the Republic of Korea on February 25, 2008. Lee Myung-bak was the Mayor of Seoul, South Korea from 2002 to 2006 and a former Chairman of Hyundai Construction. Lee Myung-bak, a devout Christian who grew up in poverty, was born in Osaka, Japan on December 19, 1941; his parents were living in Japan as Korean migrant workers ("guest workers"). Lee Myung-bak's presumed colonial Japanese name is "Akihiro Tsukiyama" (月山 明博). (AP Photo-Pool)

South Korea's President Lee Myung-bak (C) is interviewed by Council on Foreign Relations co-chairman Robert Rubin (R), a former Chairman of Goldman Sachs banking firm and former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City on September 21, 2009. (Reuters)

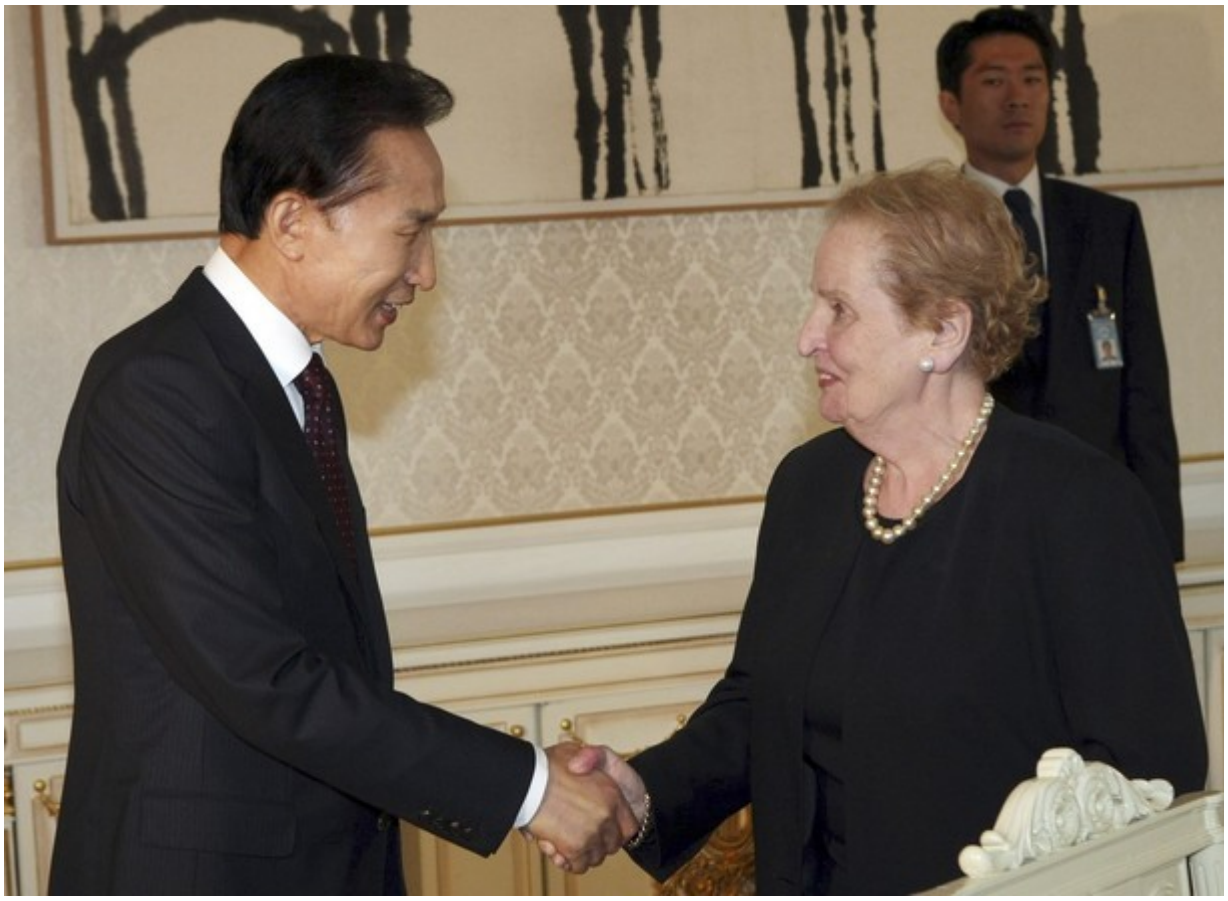
Korean President Lee Myung-bak speaks at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City on September 21, 2009. (AP Photo)

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates (left) visits South Korea's President Lee Myung-bak at the Blair House in Washington, D.C. on April 18, 2008. (Reuters)

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice shakes hand with South Korea's President Lee Myung-Bak before their meeting at Blue House in Seoul, South Korea on Saturday, June 28, 2008. (Associated Press via U.S. Department of State)

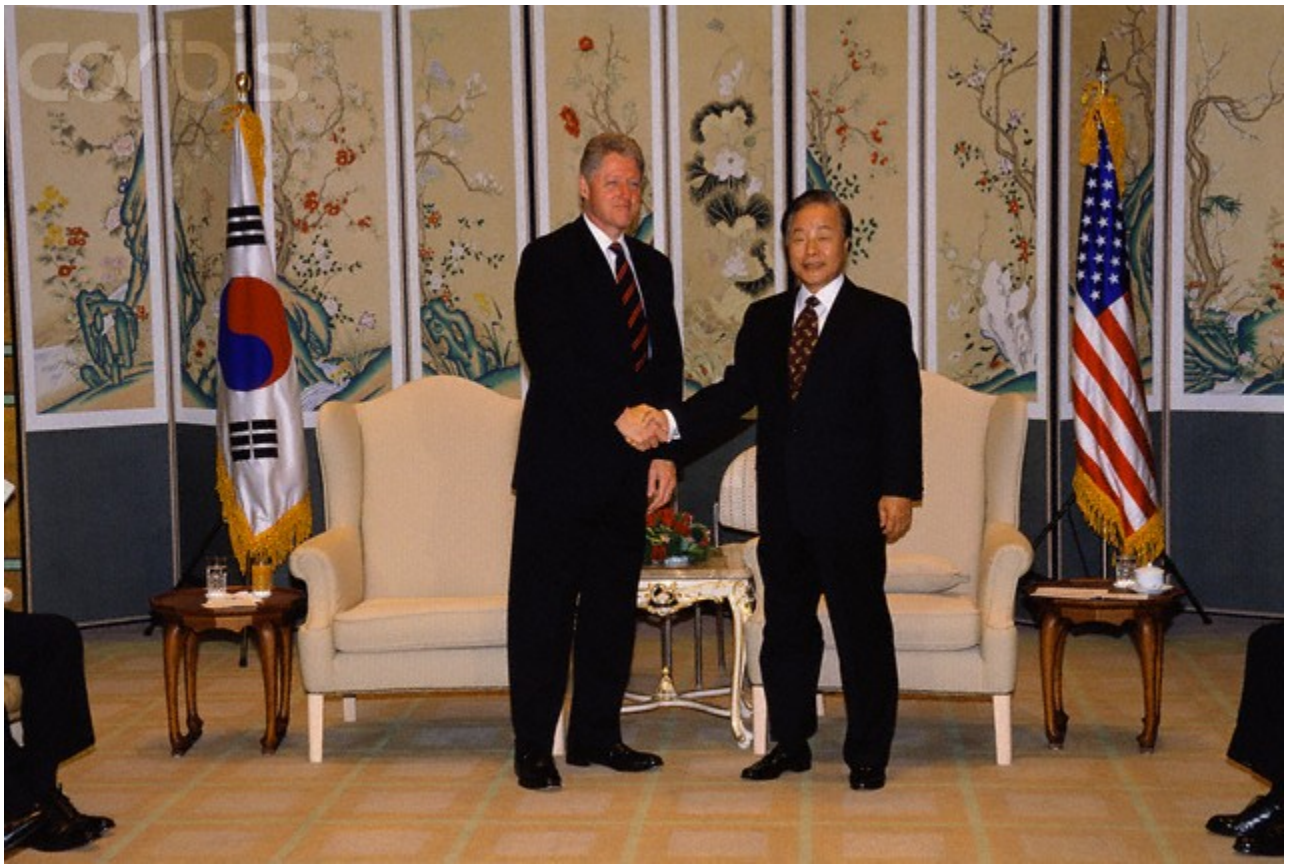
U.S. President Barack Obama (R) looks as South Korea's President Lee Myung-bak speaks to U.S. Representative to the United Nations Susan E. Rice during a meeting at the Blue House in Seoul, South Korea on November 19, 2009. Susan E. Rice is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a Rhodes Scholar. (Reuters)

U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates (left), U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (2nd left), President of South Korea Lee Myung-bak (center), Foreign Minister of South Korea Yu Myung-hwan (2nd right), and Defense Minister of South Korea Kim Tae-young walk to a dinner in the presidential house in Seoul, South Korea on July 21, 2010. (Photo: U.S. Department of Defense)



South Korea's President Lee Myung-bak (L) greets former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea on August 23, 2009. Albright was in Seoul to attend the funeral of the late former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung. Madeleine Albright is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. (Reuters)

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak (R) talks with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg (L) at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea on June 4, 2009. James Steinberg is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a regular Bilderberg Meetings participant. (Reuters)

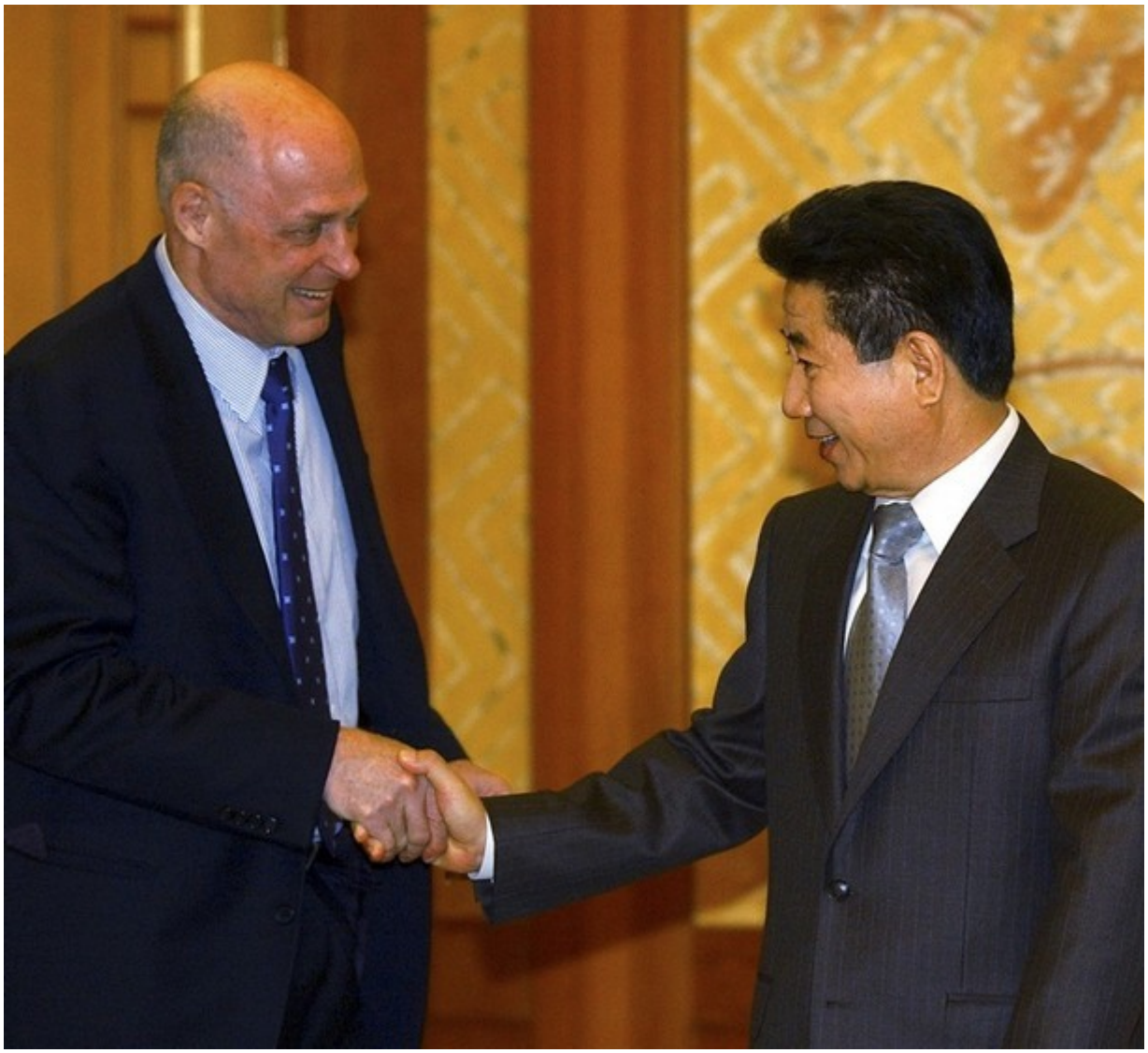


President Bill Clinton visits South Korea's President Kim Young Sam (김영삼, 金泳三) in Seoul, South Korea in April 1996. Kim Young Sam was the President of South Korea from 1993 to 1998. Kim Young Sam's colonial Japanese name is "Kosuke Kanemura" (金村康右).
(© Wally McNamee/CORBIS)

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates (left) shakes hands with South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun during their meeting at the presidential house in Seoul on November 7, 2007. (Getty images)

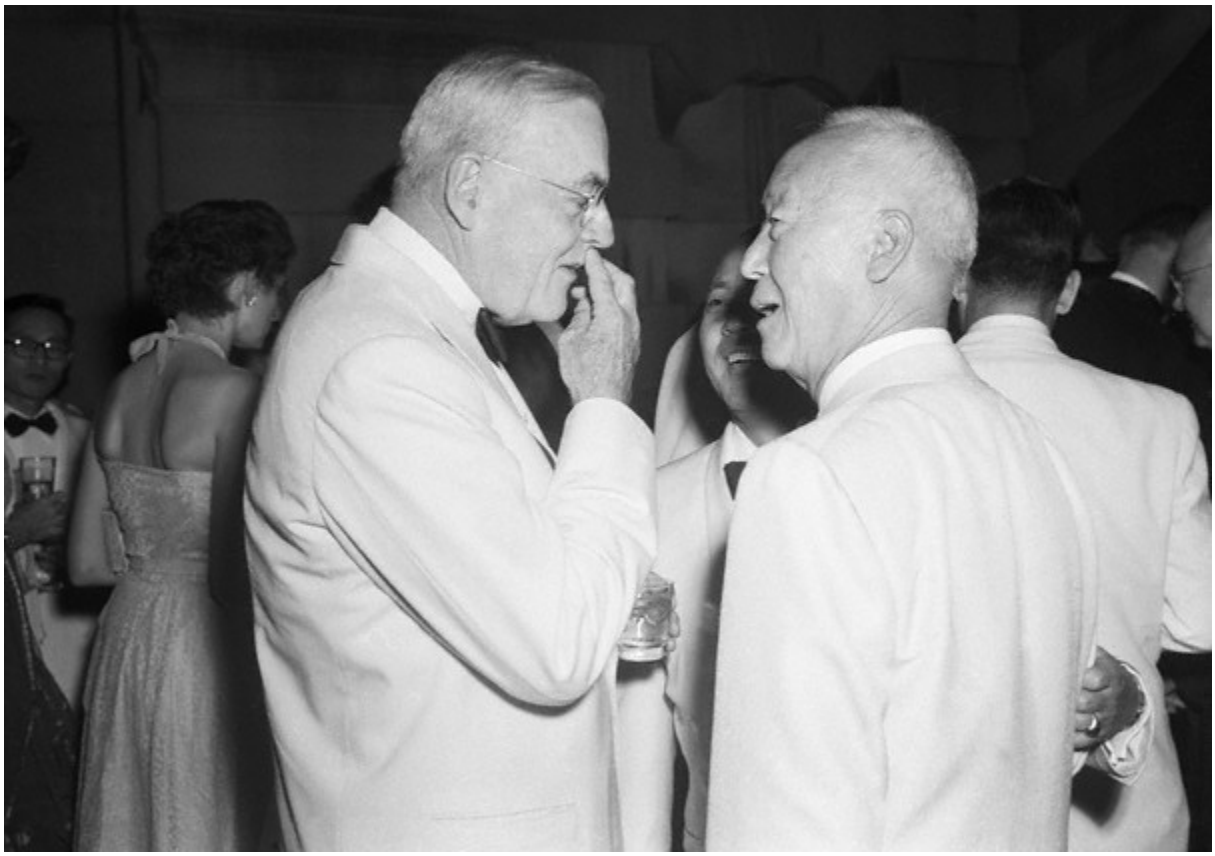
Paul Wolfowitz, President of the World Bank, meets with Roh Moo-hyun, the President of South Korea, in Seoul, South Korea on May 30, 2006. (Photo: Kim Jae Hoon/World Bank)

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice meets with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun at the presidential house in Seoul, South Korea on March 20, 2005. (Photo: U.S. Department of State)



Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson (left) shakes hands with South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun during a meeting in Seoul, South Korea on March 7, 2007. (Photo by Song Kyung-Suk-Pool/Getty Images)

South Korea's President Lee Myung-Bak (R) shakes hands with former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell (L) during their meeting at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea on November 7, 2008. (AFP/Getty Images)



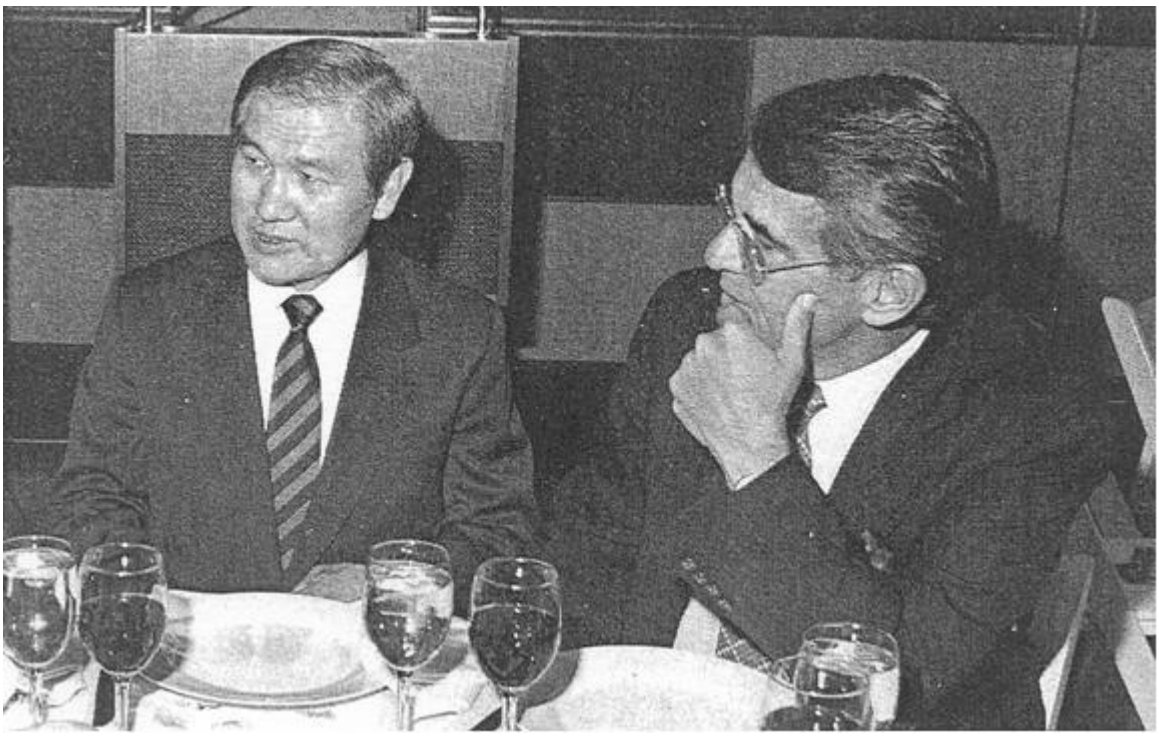
U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles (left) entertains South Korea's President Syngman Rhee at a dinner in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on July 28, 1954. They are shown chatting on the terrace of the Anderson House used by the State Department for official functions. (Bettmann/CORBIS)

U.S. Vice President Richard Nixon (right) greets Dr. Syngman Rhee, President of the Republic of Korea, in the war-torn capital of Seoul, South Korea on November 18, 1953. Nixon presented a letter from U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower to Dr. Rhee. (Bettmann/CORBIS)

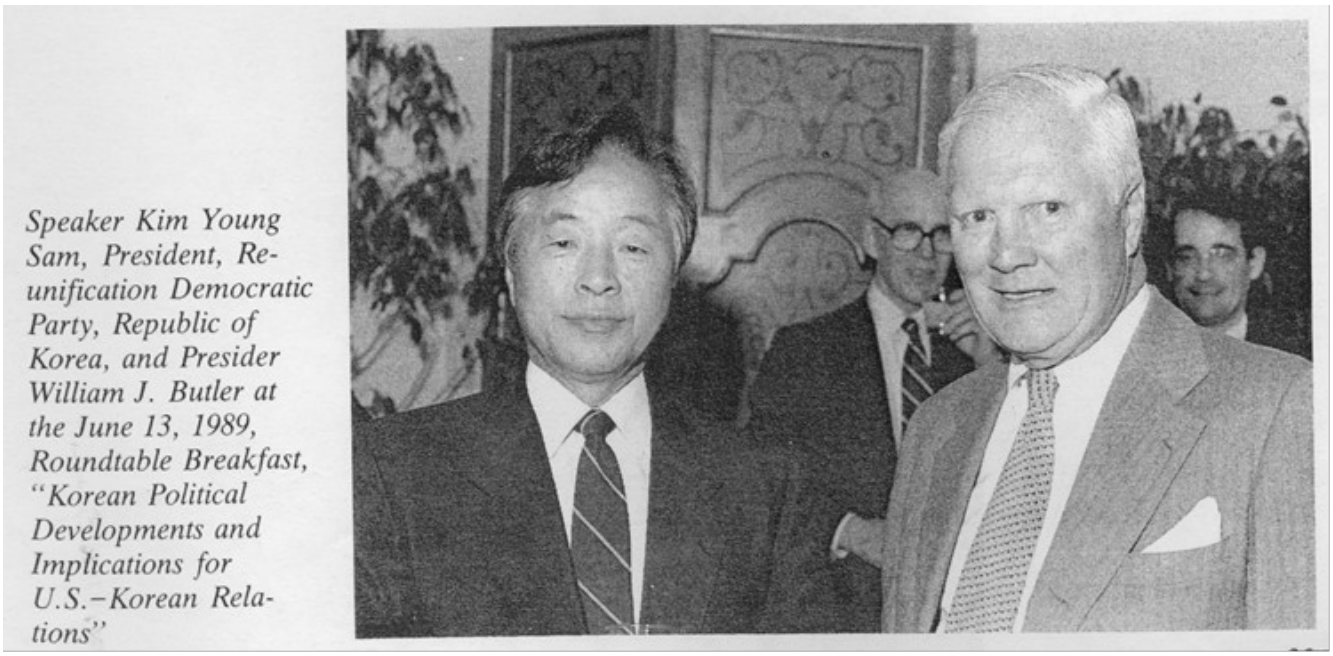
President Dwight D. Eisenhower shakes hands with South Korea's President Syngman Rhee at the White House in Washington, D.C. on July 26, 1954. (Bettmann/CORBIS)

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles (left) chats with South Korean President Syngman Rhee (center) at the presidential mansion in Seoul, South Korea on March 21, 1956. At right is Walter S. Robertson, Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs. Jon Foster Dulles and Walter S. Robertson were members of the Council on Foreign Relations. (Bettmann/CORBIS)

Army Gen. Maxwell Taylor goes for a test run in an American jeep as South Korean President Syngman Rhee goes for a ride. The Council on Foreign Relations undermined General Douglas McArthur and Syngman Rhee's plan to unify Korea and eliminate Communism on the Korean peninsula.

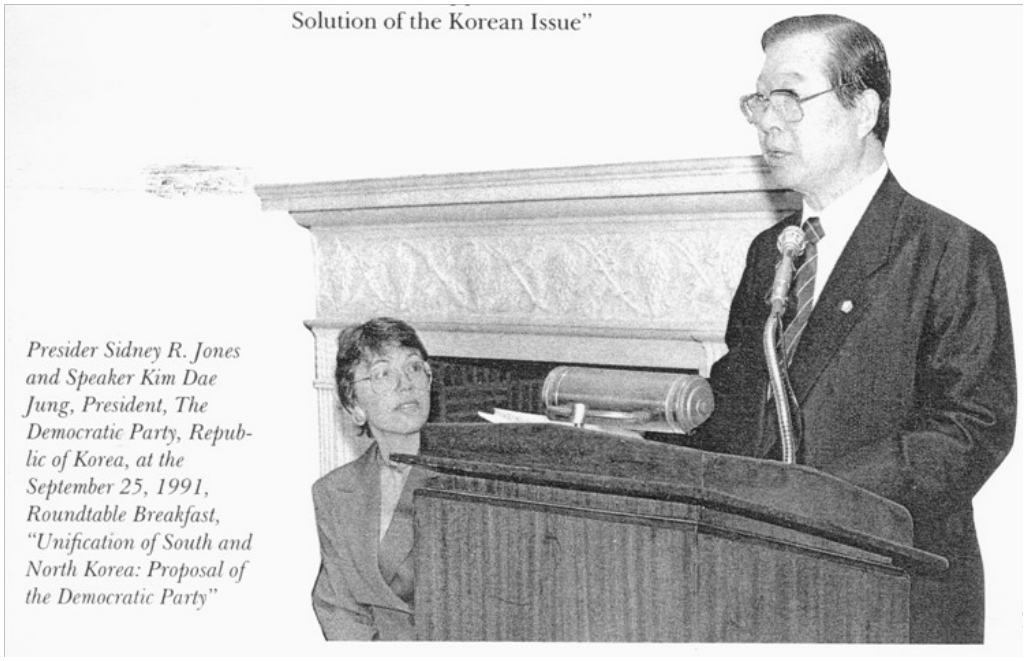


Council on Foreign Relations Chairman Peter G. Peterson listens to South Korea's President Roh Tae-woo at the Harold Pratt House on October 19, 1988. (Photo: Council on Foreign Relations Annual Report)



Speaker Kim Young Sam, President, Reunification Democratic Party, Republic of Korea, and Presider William J. Butler at the June 13, 1989, Roundtable Breakfast, "Korean Political Developments and Implications for U.S.–Korean Relations"

(Photo: Council on Foreign Relations Annual Report)



Presider Sidney R. Jones and Speaker Kim Dae Jung, President, The Democratic Party, Republic of Korea, at the September 25, 1991, Roundtable Breakfast, "Unification of South and North Korea: Proposal of the Democratic Party"

(Photo: Council on Foreign Relations Annual Report)

Kenneth W. Dam, Alan Romberg, Kong Sa Duk, Park Sil, and Han Soon Joo meet together at the Harold Pratt House in 1987. (CFR Annual Report)

Robert Gallucci (left), former chief negotiator for the 1994 North Korea Nuclear Agreement, and Governor of New Mexico Bill Richardson (right) are interviewed during taping of 'Meet the Press' at the NBC studio in Washington, D.C. on July 9, 2006. Richardson and Gallucci spoke about the recent missile tests of North Korea. Robert Gallucci and Bill Richardson are members of the Council on Foreign Relations.

President Bill Clinton (left) greets Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson. Bill Clinton and Bill Richardson are members of the Council on Foreign Relations. (Source: *Between Worlds: The Making of An American Life* by Bill Richardson)

Left photo: Dr. William J. Perry (Co-Director, PDP and former U.S. Secretary of Defense) meets with Song Min-soon, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, in Seoul, Republic of Korea in February 2007. Dr. William J. Perry is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. (Photo by Deborah Gordon) http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/17271/pdp_principals_lead_us_delegation_to_korea.html

Right photo: Left to right: Park Geun-Hye (National Assembly Member, former Grand National Party leader, and daughter of Park Chung-hee), Dr. William J. Perry (Co-Director, PDP and former U.S. Secretary of Defense), and General John Tilelli, Jr. (former ROK-US Combined Forces Command/U.S. Forces Korea) meet in Seoul, South Korea in February 2007. (Photo by Deborah Gordon) http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/17271/pdp_principals_lead_us_delegation_to_korea.html

U.S. special envoy for North Korea Stephen Bosworth, left, is greeted by former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung during their meeting at the Kim's house in Seoul, South Korea on Saturday, May 9, 2009. Stephen Bosworth is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. (AP Photo) http://www.armybase.us/2009/05/us-south-korea-stand-by-six-party-north-korean-talks/

Jessica Einhorn (left), Dean of the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of Johns Hopkins University, greets former South Korean President and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Kim Dae Jung (center) as Don Oberdorfer (right), Director of the U.S.-Korea Institute at SAIS, looks on upon arriving for a discussion with Korea experts at the school in Washington, D.C. on September 20, 2007. Jessica Einhorn and Don Oberdorfer are members of the Council on Foreign Relations. (Reuters)

Former President of South Korea and Nobel Prize winner Kim Dae-Jung, left, meets with former President Bill Clinton during the Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting in New York City on September 26, 2007. (AFP/Getty Images)

Rabbi Arthur Schneier meets with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak in Seoul, Korea on May 3, 2012. Also present is Korean First Lady Kim Yoon-ok and Rabbi Schneier's wife Elisabeth Schneier. Rabbi Arthur Schneier is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private foreign affairs organization in New York City. Both Israel and South Korea gained their independence in 1948, and diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1962.
(Photo: http://www.vosizneias.com/105941/2012/05/08/new-york-korean-president-and-local-rabbi-celebrate-fifty-years-of-diplomacy-between-israel-and-korea/)

Park Geun-Hye (right), President of South Korea, talks with Thomas Donilon, the U.S. National Security Advisor, during their meeting at the Blue House presidential office in Seoul, South Korea on February 26, 2013. Park Geun-Hye is the daughter of former South Korean President General Park Chung-hee. Park engaged in a flurry of diplomacy on her second day in office, holding meetings with several world leaders.
(Photo: Chung Sung-Jun/Getty Images)

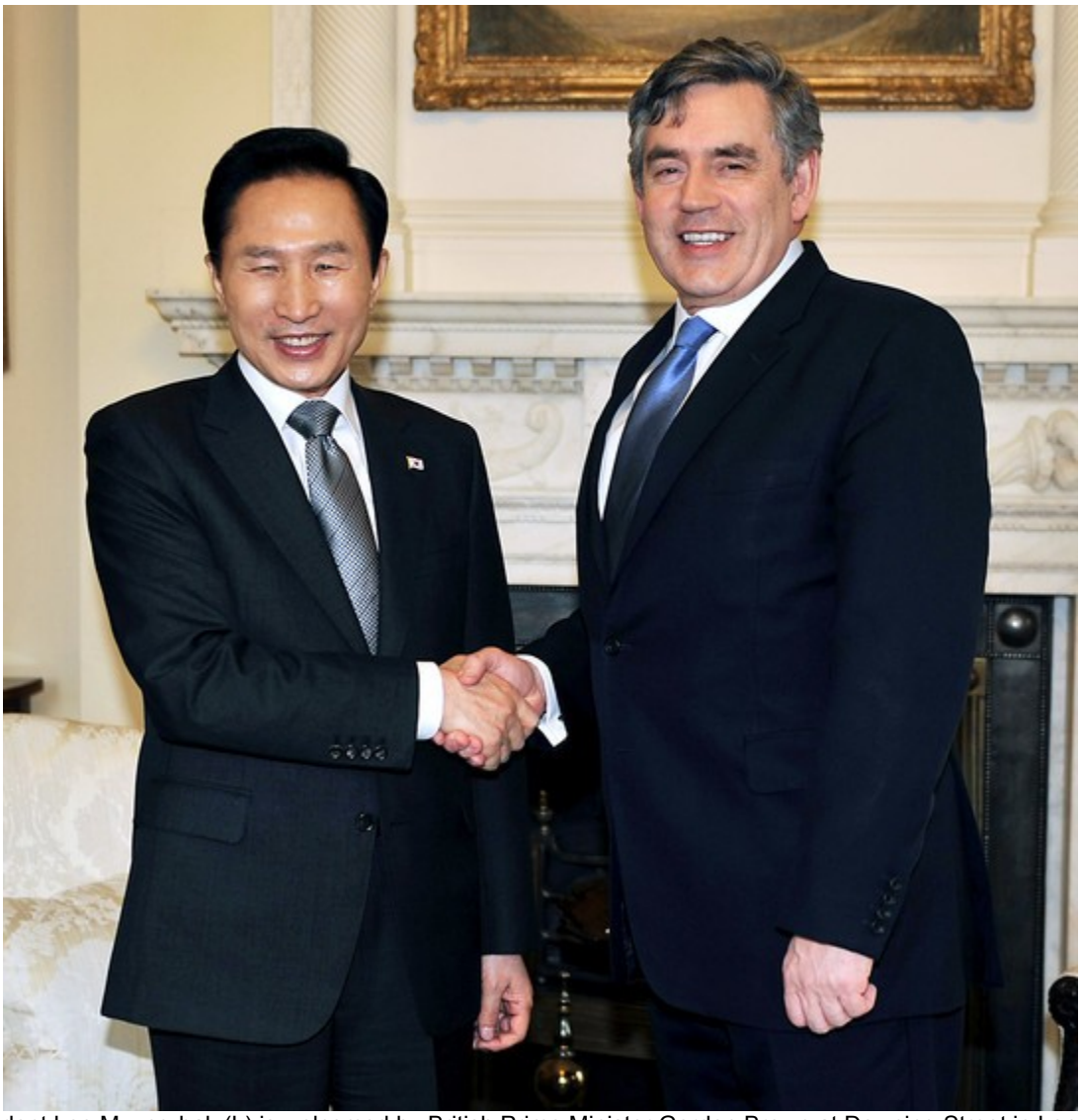
SOUTH KOREA & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

U.S. President Barack Obama shares a laugh with South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak during a bilateral meeting at the Blue House in Seoul, South Korea on November 19, 2009. (Reuters)

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton (L) shakes hands with South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak (R) during their meeting at the Blair House in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on June 15, 2009. (Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images North America)

Czech Republic President Vaclav Klaus and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso (a Bilderberg Meetings participant) shake hands with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak before their meeting at the Presidential House in Seoul, South Korea on May 23, 2009. South Korea and the European Union (EU) held a meeting in Seoul to discuss unresolved issues of a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA). (Photo by Chung Sung-Jun/Getty Images)

Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair (left) greets South Korea's President Roh Moo-hyun as he arrives at Downing Street in London on December 2, 2004. (Scott Barbour/Getty Images)



South Korea’s President Lee Myung-bak (L) is welcomed by British Prime Minister Gordon Brown at Downing Street in London on March 31, 2009. Leaders from the world's leading industrialized nations met at London's ExCel Center for the 2009 G20 Summit on April 2, 2009. (Photo by Andy Rain - Pool/Getty Images)

South Korea’s President Lee Myung-bak shakes hands with Canada’s Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. on September 25, 2009. (Reuters)

South Korean President Kim Dae Jung (L) meets with Emperor Akihito (R) at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan on July 2, 2002. (Photo: Koichi Kamoshida/Getty Images)

South Korea's President Roh Moo-hyun (L) is greeted by Japanese Emperor Akihito during welcoming ceremonies for Roh at the Akasaka Palace state guesthouse in Tokyo, Japan on June 6, 2003. (Getty Images)

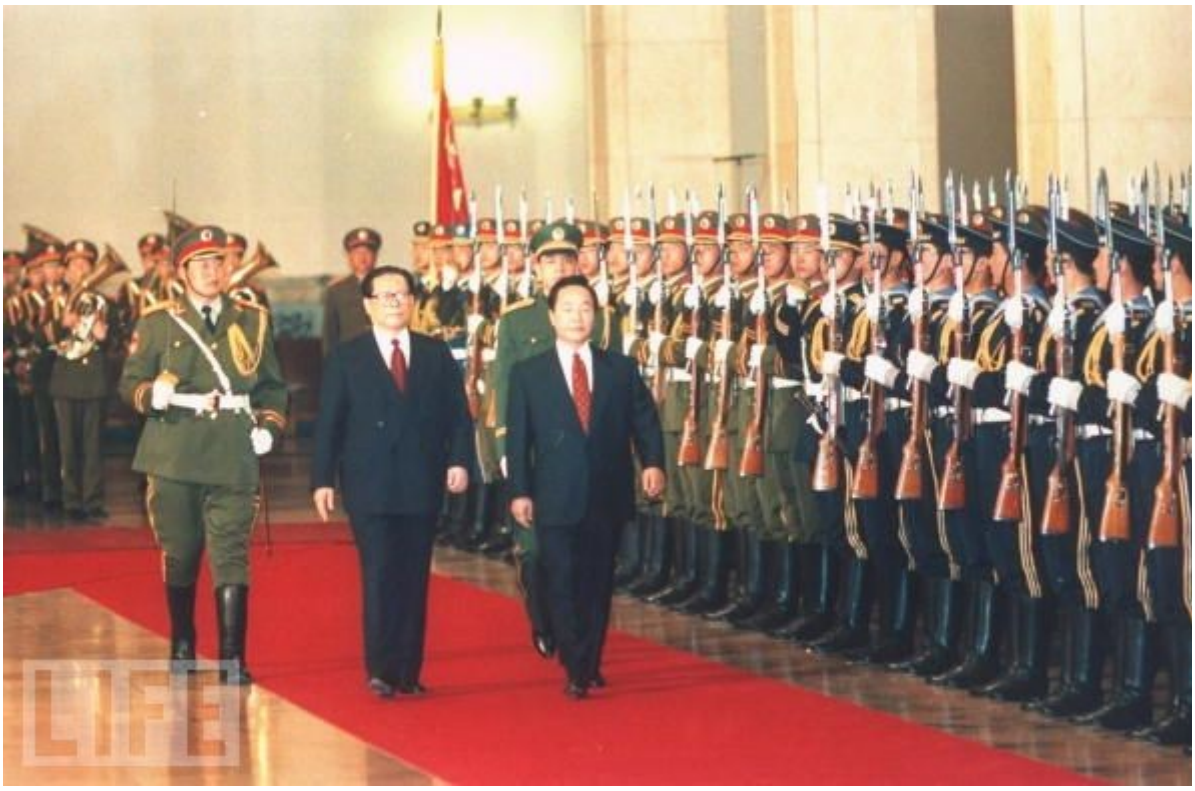
President of South Korea Roh Moo-Hyun (L) and Prime Minister of Japan Junichiro Koizumi (R) attend a joint press conference held after their bilateral summit in Ibusuki, Japan on December 17, 2004. Koizumi met Roh as Tokyo faced mounting pressure from the public to impose sanctions on North Korea for failing to fully account for Japanese citizens it kidnapped decades ago.

Left photo: Communist China's Premier Wen Jiabao (left), Republic of Korea (ROK) President Roh Moo-hyun (center), and Prime Minister of Japan Junichiro Koizumi meet prior to their trilateral conference in Bali, Indonesia on October 7, 2003. The three leaders met on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit. [newsphoto.com.cn] http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/en/doc/2003-10/08/content_269783.htm

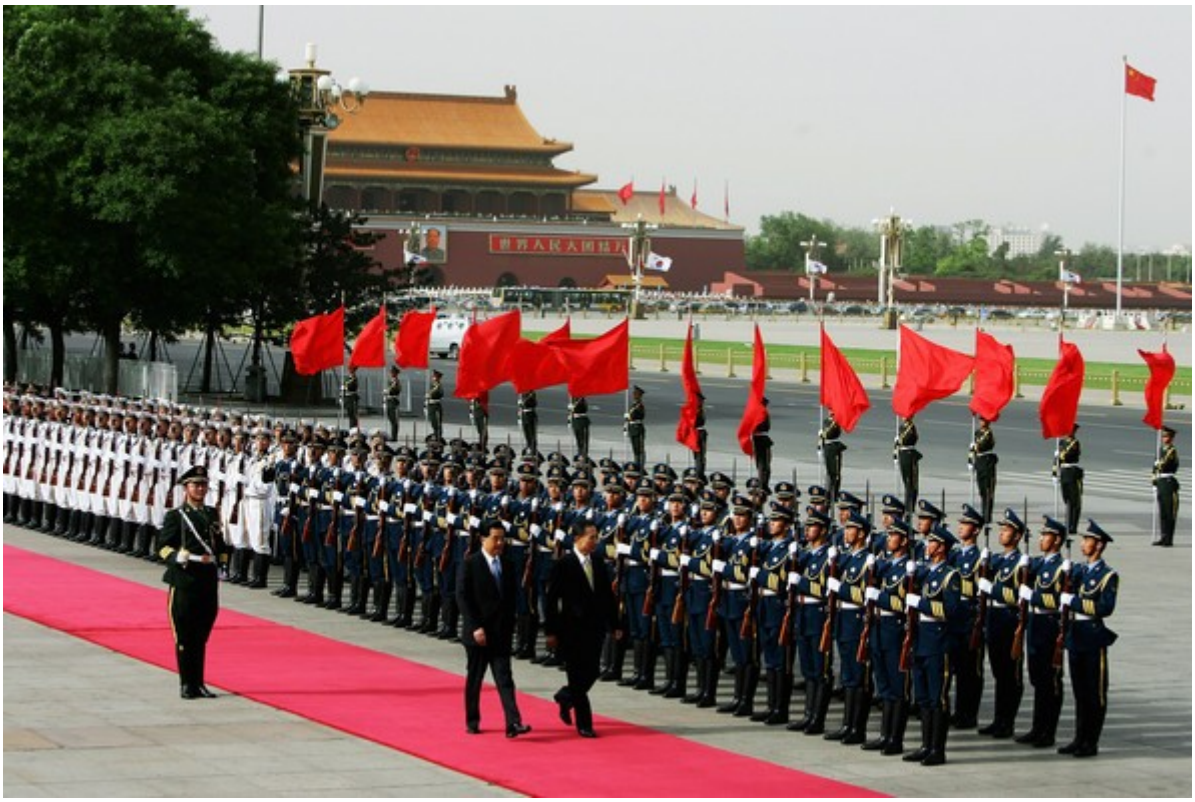
Right photo: Reverend Sun Myung Moon (left) and his wife Mrs. Moon meet with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev (center) in 1990. (Photo: http://www.familyfed.org/about/index.php?id=2)

South Korea’s President Lee Myung-bak (R), a member of South Korea’s Grand National Party, shares a toast with Japan's Prime Minister Taro Aso, a member of the Liberal Democratic Party, during their dinner at the presidential house in Seoul, South Korea on January 11, 2009. Lee Myung-bak is a Presbyterian while Taro Aso is a Roman Catholic. (Reuters)

South Korea’s President Lee Myung-bak (L) greets Japan’s Prime Minister Taro Aso at the start of their talks with both countries' delegates at the premier's official residence in Tokyo, Japan on June 28, 2009. Lee was on a day visit to Japan to discuss key issues such as East Asian security and North Korea. (Photo by Pool/Getty Images AsiaPac)



Red China’s President Jiang Zemin (L) and South Korea’s President Kim Young Sam review the People’s Liberation Army during arrival ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on March 28, 1994.
(Forrest Anderson/Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images)



Communist China’s President Hu Jintao (C) accompanies South Korea’s President Lee Myung-bak to view an honor guard during a welcoming ceremony in front of Tiananmen Square in Beijing, Communist China on May 27, 2008.
(Photo by Guang Niu/Getty Images AsiaPac)

Communist China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen (front, row, third from left), Communist China's President Jiang Zemin (front row, fourth from left), and South Korea's President Kim Young Sam (front row, fifth from left) watch their aides sign an agreement in Beijing, Communist China on March 29, 1994. (Photo by Forrest Anderson//Time Life Pictures/Getty Images)

Communist China's President Jiang Zemin (left) toasts South Korea's President Kim Young Sam in Beijing on March 29, 1994. South Korea established diplomatic relations with Communist China and severed ties with the Republic of China (Taiwan) on August 24, 1992. South Korea maintained diplomatic relations with the Republic of China (Taiwan) during the Korean War, Vietnam War, and the first Persian Gulf War. (Photo by Forrest Anderson//Time Life Pictures/Getty Images)

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun (L) meets Communist China's President Hu Jintao at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Communist China on October 13, 2006. Roh was in Beijing for a day of talks with Communist China's leaders concerning North Korea's recent nuclear test. (Photo: Pool/Getty Images)

Communist China's President Hu Jintao (R) toasts South Korea's President Lee Myung-bak after a meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Communist China on May 27, 2008. The South Korean President arrived in the Chinese capital on Tuesday for a four-day state visit. (Pool/Getty Images)

Communist China's President Hu Jintao (R) meets with Park Geun-hye, envoy of President-elect Lee Myung-bak of the Republic of Korea (ROK), in Beijing, Communist China on January 17, 2008. Park Geun-hye is the daughter of General Park Chung-hee. (Xinhua Photo)

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso (left) welcomes South Korea's special envoy Park Geun-hye, the daughter of South Korea's former strongman General Park Chung-hee, before their meeting at the European Union (EU) Commission headquarters in Brussels, Belgium on September 3, 2009. Jose Manuel Barroso has attended the Bilderberg Meetings in the past. (Reuters)

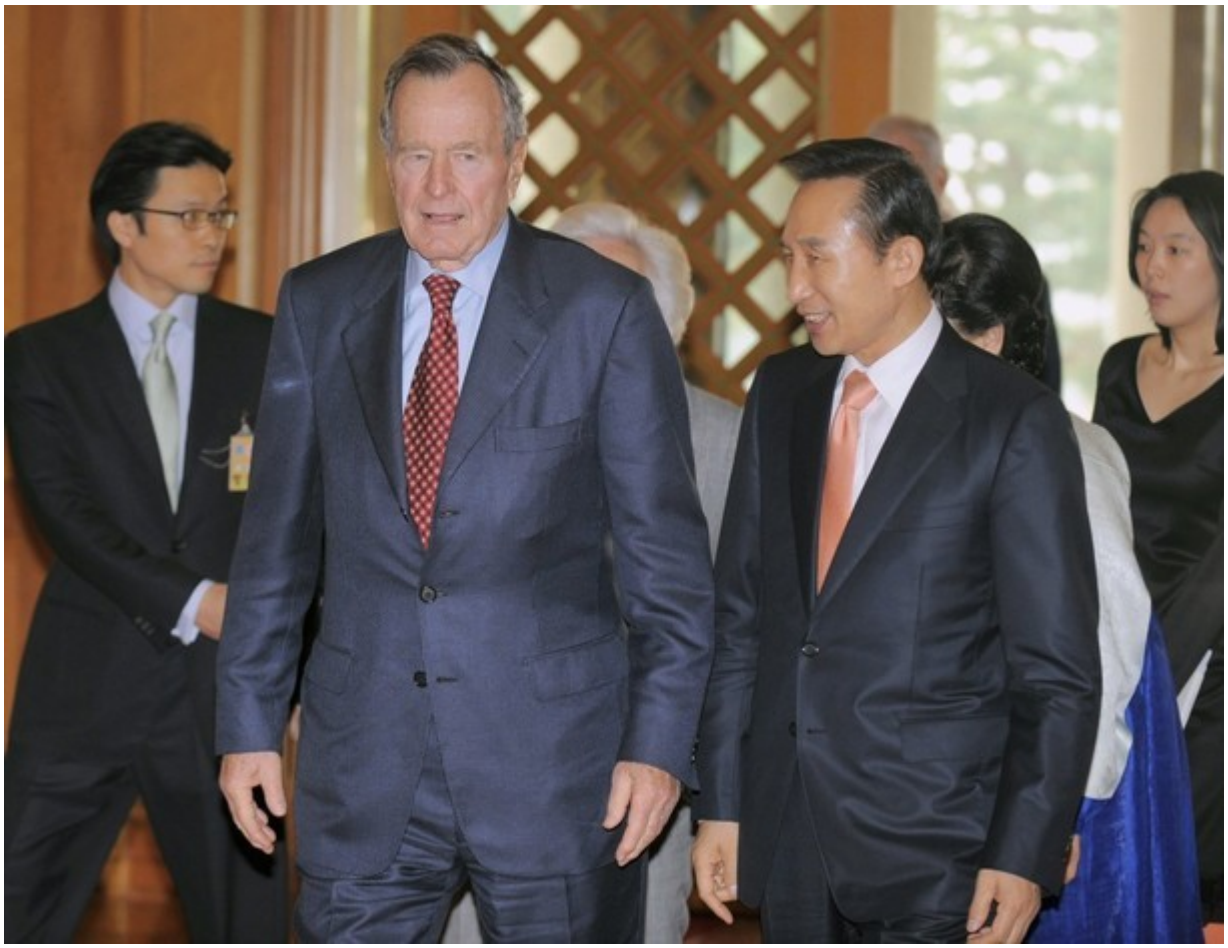
Geun Hye Park (left), chairperson of the Grand National Party (GNP) of South Korea, greets Prime Minister of Japan Junichiro Koizumi at his official residence in Tokyo, Japan on March 8, 2006. (Everett Kennedy Brown/AFP/Getty Images)

Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain delivers a speech beside her husband Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and President of South Korea Park Geun-Hye (left) during a state banquet at Buckingham Palace in London on November 5, 2013.
(Photo by Neil Hall - WPA Pool/Getty Images)

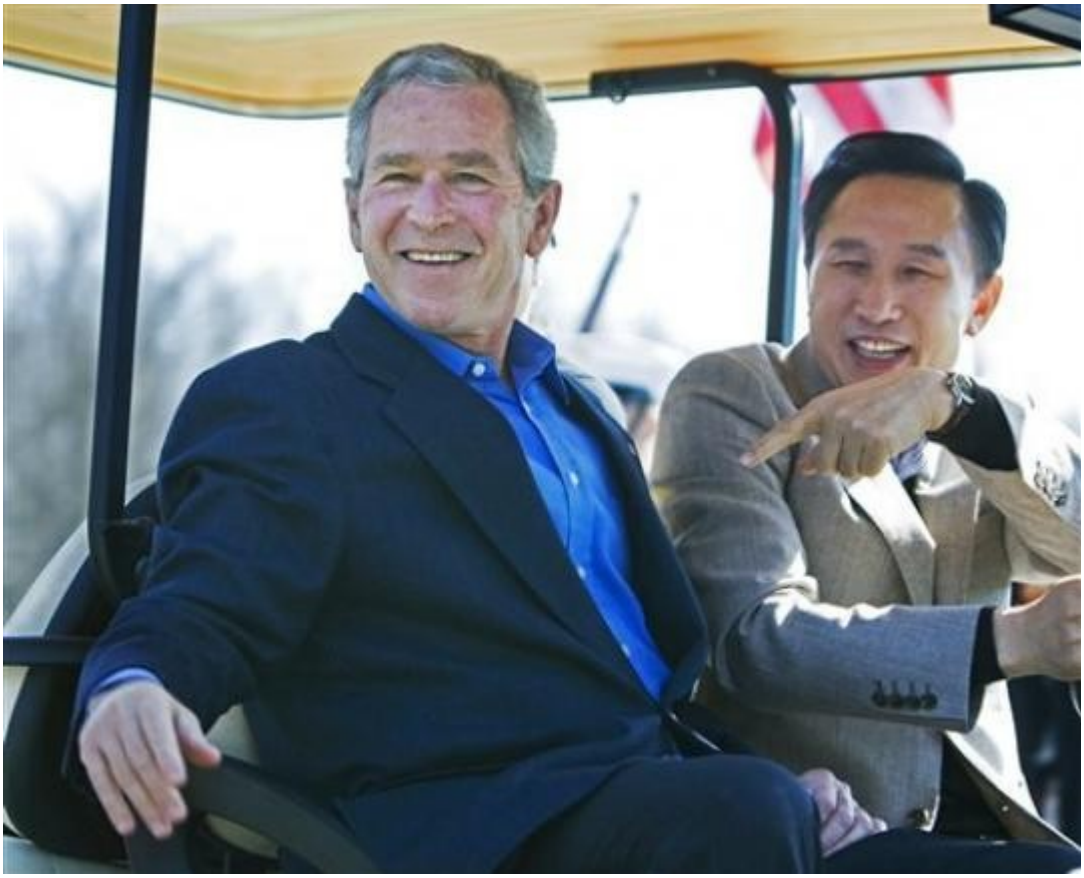
BUSH FAMILY & SOUTH KOREA

Former U.S. President George H.W. Bush (L) talks with South Korea's President Roh Moo-Hyun (노무현, 盧武鉉) at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea on April 15, 2003. **Former President of South Korea Roh Moo-Hyun committed "suicide" at his home near Busan [Pusan], South Korea on May 23, 2009 after his family was accused of accepting bribes.** (Pool/Getty Images)

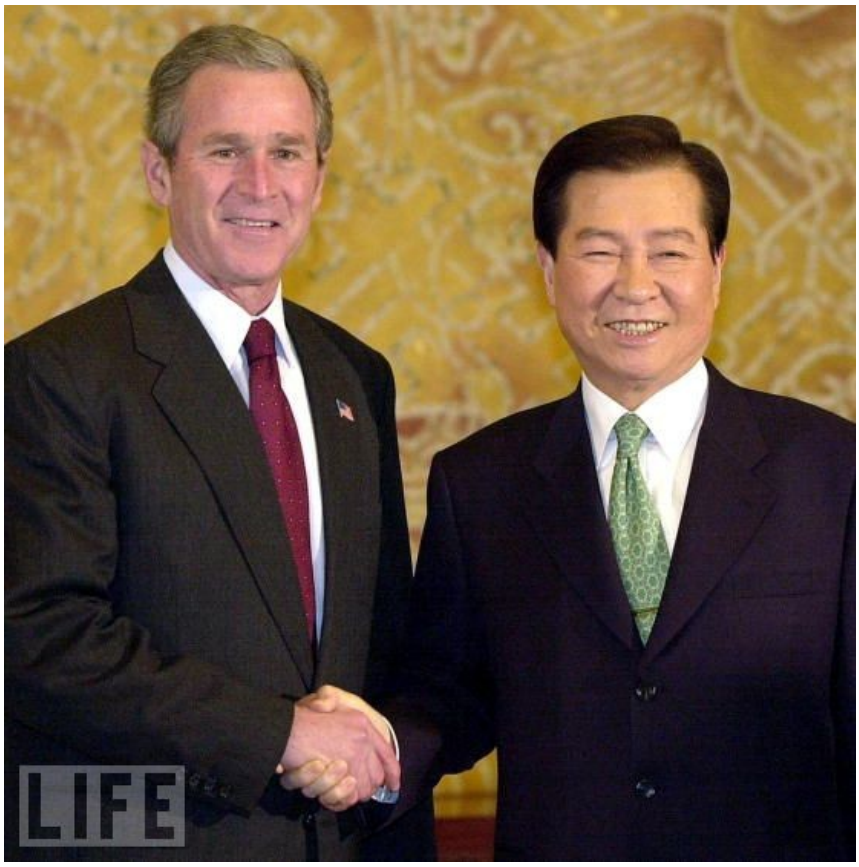
President George W. Bush (R) shakes hands with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun in the Oval Office of the White House on June 10, 2005. Bush and Roh discussed the North Korean nuclear weapons program. (UPI Photo/ Kamenko Pajic)



South Korea's President Lee Myung-Bak (center right) walks with former U.S. President George H.W. Bush (center left) at the Blue House in Seoul, South Korea on March 12, 2008. (Reuters)



President George W. Bush (left) and South Korea's President Lee Myung-bak (이명박, 李明博) ride in a golf cart in Camp David, Maryland, U.S.A. on April 18, 2008. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)



U.S. President George W. Bush (L) shakes hands with South Korean President Kim Dae Jung (김대중, 金大中), a devout Roman Catholic, during a summit talk at the presidential palace in Seoul, South Korea on February 20, 2002. Kim Dae Jung was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000; Kim Dae Jung's colonial Japanese name was Daichū Toyota (豊田大中). (Pool Photo/Getty Images)

South Korea's President Roh Tae Woo (노태우, 盧泰愚) and American President George H.W. Bush reach across the table to shake hands at a meeting in Seoul, South Korea in January 1992. Roh Tae Woo was the President of South Korea from 1988 to 1993; South Korea established diplomatic relations with Communist China and severed ties with the Republic of China (Taiwan) on August 24, 1992. Former South Korean presidents Gen. Roh Tae Woo and Gen. Chun Doo Hwan were convicted of treason and bribery in August 1996 but were pardoned by South Korea's President Kim Young Sam in December 1997. (Wally McNamee/CORBIS)

Neil Bush (third from left), the son of former President George H.W. Bush and brother of former President George W. Bush, appears with Reverend Sun Myung Moon (second from right) in Paraguay in 2005.
(Photo: http://www.democraticunderground.com/discuss/duboard.php?az=view_all&address=389x3183814)

Left photo: George H.W. Bush (second from left) and his Barbara Bush (left) appear with Reverend Sun Myung Moon (second from right).

Right photo: Reverend Jerry Falwell (left), a longtime Bush family supporter, greets Reverend Sun Myung Moon. Reverend Sun Myung Moon died in South Korea on September 3, 2012.

President Richard Nixon (left) meets with Reverend Sun Myung Moon. Richard Nixon appointed George H.W. Bush as the U.S. Representative to the United Nations in 1971. (Photo: Democratic Underground)

Some 22,000 couples of Reverend Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church are wed en masse at the Madison Square Garden in New York City on July 1, 1982 as Reverend Moon (right), his wife (left), and other church officials are on raised platform in background.
(© Bettmann/CORBIS)

Left: Dr. Syngman Rhee (Ri Seungman, 이승만, 李承晩, April 26, 1875–July 19, 1965), the President of South Korea from 1948 to 1960, appears on the front cover of the October 16, 1950 of *Time* magazine. Dr. Rhee, who was a Christian, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from George Washington University, a Master of Arts degree from Harvard University, and a Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1910.

Right: South Korea's President Gen. Chun Doo Hwan (전두환, 全斗煥) appears on the front cover of the June 29, 1987 edition of *Time* magazine. Chun Doo Hwan was the President of South Korea from September 1, 1980 to February 24, 1988. Chun Doo Hwan was the Director of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) in 1980, and assumed the presidency in a military coup d'etat.

Left: Kim Il Sung (left), the dictator of North Korea, appears on the front cover of the June 13, 1994 of *Time* magazine. Kim Il Sung died on July 8, 1994. Kim Il Sung (김일성, 金日成; 15 April 1912–8 July 1994) was the Premier of North Korea from 1948 to 1972, "President" of North Korea from 1972 to 1994, and General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea from 1949 to 1994.

Right: Kim Jong Il (김정일, 金正日, born 16 February 1941), the dictator of North Korea and son of Kim Il Sung, appears on the front cover of the January 13, 2003 of *Time* magazine.

Modern Korea: Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace?

2013: Year of the Snake

The 2013 Economic Embargo on North Korea (March-April 2013)

North Korea's Commissar Kim Jong-Un (center) visits a long-range artillery sub-unit of the Korean People's Army Unit 641, whose mission is to strike Baengnyeong Island of South Korea in the western sector of the front line on March 11, 2013 in this picture released by the North Korea's official KCNA news agency in Pyongyang, North Korea on March 12, 2013. South Korea and American forces are conducting large-scale military drills, while North Korea is also gearing up for a massive military exercise. North Korea has accused America of using the military drills in South Korea as a launch pad for a nuclear war and has said to scrap the Korean War armistice. (Photo: REUTERS/KCNA)

"Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun." – Mao Tse-tung

Kim Jong-Un (center, holding a binocular), the communist ruler of North Korea, watches a flight exercise and a paratrooping drill of the Air and Anti-Air Force and Large Combined Unit 630 of the Korean People's Army in an undated photo. **The United Nations, on behalf of America and Communist China, has proposed to impose additional sanctions on North Korea in early March 2013 following North Korea's nuclear weapons tests that was conducted on February 12, 2013. The North Korean communist regime has responded to the proposed sanctions by threatening to terminate the 1953 armistice effectively on March 11, 2013 and engage in preemptive nuclear warfare.** (Photo: REUTERS/KCNA)

Former professional basketball player (and Chicago Bulls rebounder) Dennis Rodman (front right) applauds as he sits next to North Korea's Commissar Kim Jong-Un (front left) at a basketball game in Pyongyang, North Korea on February 28, 2013. (Photo: AFP/VICE Media/Jason Mojica)

This undated picture released on March 12, 2013 shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspecting a long-range artillery sub-unit of Korean People's Army Unit 641 at an undisclosed place in North Korea. (KNS/AFP/Images)

North Korea’s Commissar Kim Jong Un (wearing a dark coat) meets with his army officers inside an observation post in an undated photo.

North Korea’s Commissar Kim Jong Un (wearing a dark coat) observes military training exercises with a binocular at an observation post in an undated photo.

North Korean students attend a political rally supposedly held to show their “willingness” to enlist in the army on March 14, 2013. (KCNA Photo)

In this file photo released Monday, February 25, 2013, by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) and distributed Tuesday, February 26 by the Korea News Service, a Korean People's Army artillery unit participate in a live fire drill while North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, unseen, inspects the unit at an undisclosed location, in North Korea. Late leader Kim Jong Il elevated the military's role during his 17-year rule, boosting troop levels to an estimated 1.2 million soldiers, according to the South Korean government. The military's new supreme commander, Kim Jong Un, gave the Korean People's Army a sharpened focus this year by instructing troops to build a “nuclear arms force.” (AP Photo/KCNA via KNS, File)

An undated photo of a military training exercise conducted by the North Korean army in 2013

An undated photo of a military training exercise conducted by the North Korean army in 2013

An undated photo of a military training exercise conducted by the North Korean army in 2013

An undated photo of a military training exercise conducted by the North Korean army in 2013

North Korean soldiers patrol along the bank of the Yalu River in Sinuiju, North Korea across from Dandong, Communist China on April 4, 2013.

North Korean soldiers with military dogs take part in drills in an unknown location, on April 6, 2013. (KCNA/handout/REUTERS)

North Korean soldiers attend military drills in an unknown location, on March 20, 2013. (KCNA/handout/REUTERS)

North Korean soldiers with weapons attend military training in an undisclosed location in this picture released by the North's official KCNA news agency in Pyongyang, on March 11, 2013.

Kim Jong Un visits the Wolnae Islet Defence Detachment in North Korea's western sector near the disputed maritime frontier with South Korea. (KNS/AFP/Images)

Kim Jong Un (center) carries a pistol in his right hand as he inspects the second battalion under the Korean People's Army Unit 1973, honored with the title of "O Jung Hup-led 7th Regiment", on March 23, 2013, in this picture released on March 24, 2013.

North Korea’s Commissar Kim Jong-un presides over an urgent operation meeting on the Korean People's Army Strategic Rocket Force's performance of duty for firepower strike at the Supreme Command in Pyongyang, on March 29, 2013. (KCNA/handout/REUTERS)

A North Korean army officer and his soldiers brandish their weapons in an undated photo.

In this April 15, 2012 file photo, North Korean soldiers march in front of flower waving civilians during a mass military parade in Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square to celebrate 100 years since the birth of the late North Korean founder Kim Il Sung. North Korea's military, founded 81 years ago Thursday, is older than the country itself. It began as an anti-Japanese militia and is now the heart of the nation's “military first” policy. Late leader Kim Jong Il elevated the military's role during his 17-year rule, boosting troop levels to an estimated 1.2 million soldiers, according to the South Korean government. The military's new supreme commander, Kim Jong Un, gave the Korean People's Army a sharpened focus this year by instructing troops to build a “nuclear arms force.” (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder, File)

Park Geun-Hye, the new President of South Korea and daughter of former President of South Korea Gen. Park Chung-hee, salutes during her inauguration ceremony in front of the National Assembly building in Seoul, South Korea on February 25, 2013. (Park Jin-Hee/Getty Images)

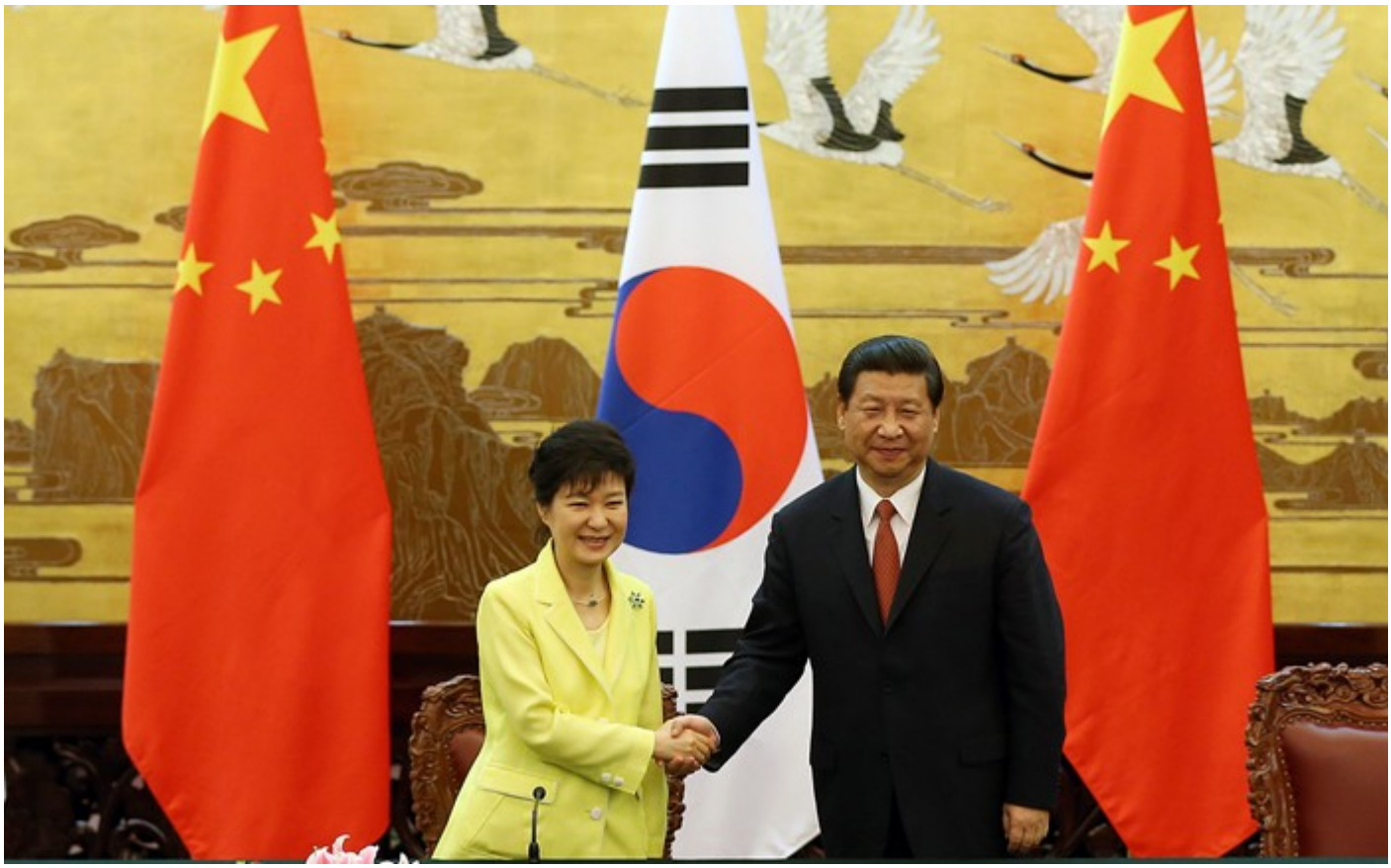
United States President Barack Obama views the De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) from Observation Post Ouellette at Camp Bonifas, Republic of Korea (South Korea) on March 25, 2012. (Official White House Photo by Chuck Kennedy)

South Korean President Park Geun-Hye (left) and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry shake hands before their talks at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea on April 12, 2013. (REUTERS/Kim Jae-Hwan/Pool)
http://news.yahoo.com/north-korea-likely-launch-nuclear-missiles-u-spy-010606895.html

United States Secretary of State John Kerry (left) gestures to South Korea's Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se shortly before the arrival of South Korean's President Park Geun-hye at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea on April 12, 2013. (REUTERS/Paul J. Richards/Pool)

United States President Barack Obama (right) shakes hands with President of South Korea Park Geun-hye (left) during a news conference at the East Room of the White House in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on May 7, 2013.
(Photo: Alex Wong/Getty Images North America)

President of South Korea Park Geun-hye (left) shakes hands with President of Russia Vladimir Putin at the G20 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia on September 6, 2013. (Photo: Presidential Press and Information Office/Kremlin)



President of South Korea Park Geun-hye (left) and President of Communist China Xi Jinping shake hands after the signing ceremony for MOUs on boosting bilateral cooperation at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Communist China on June 27, 2013. (Photo: Cheong Wa Dae).

President of South Korea Park Geun-Hye (left) and Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain raise a toast at a State Banquet at Buckingham Palace in London on November 5, 2013. (AFP/Pool/Neil Hall)

Prominent Yale University Graduates and Their Occupation in 2013

Gary Locke
B.A. Yale 1972
U.S. Ambassador to Communist China (2011-present)

Samantha Power
B.A. Yale 1992
U.S. Representative to the United Nations (2013-present)

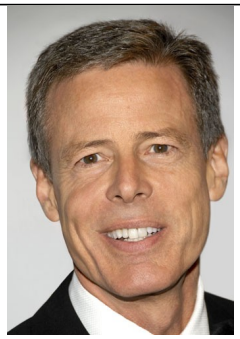
John Forbes Kerry
B.A. Yale 1966
U.S. Secretary of State (2013-present)

Ashton B. Carter
B.A. Yale 1976
Deputy U.S. Secretary of Defense (2011-2013)

Neal S. Wolin
B.A. Yale 1983
J.D. Yale 1988
Deputy Secretary of the Treasury (2009-2013)

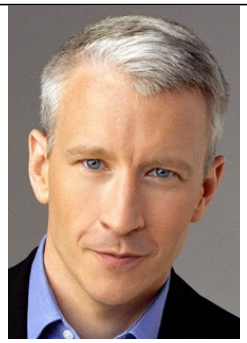
Robert "Bob" Woodward
B.A. Yale 1965
Washington Post reporter (1971-present) and best-selling author

Robert W. Kagan
B.A. Yale 1980
Columnist for *The Washington Post*; Co-Founder of Project for the New American Century

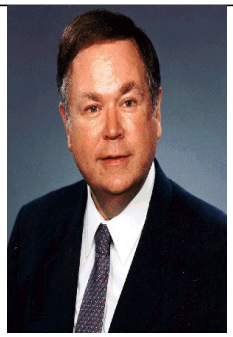


Jeffrey Bewkes
B.A. Yale 1974
Chairman and CEO of Time Warner (2009-present)

Fareed Zakaria
B.A. 1986
Editor of Newsweek International; Director of Council on Foreign Relations (2004-present)



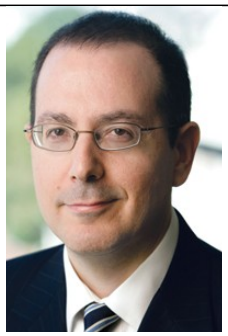
Anderson Cooper
B.A. Yale 1989
CNN reporter (2001-present); anchor of *Anderson Cooper 360°* (2003-present)



David L. Boren
B.A. Yale 1963
President of University of Oklahoma (1994-present)

Strobe Talbott
B.A. Yale 1968
President of The Brookings Institution (2002-present)

W. James McNerney, Jr.
B.A. Yale 1971
Chairman and CEO of Boeing (2005-present)

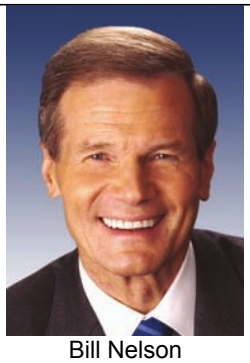


David M. Schizer
B.A. Yale 1990;
J.D. Yale1993
Dean of Columbia Law School (2004-present)

Mary Elizabeth Magill
B.A. Yale 1988
Dean of Stanford Law School (2012-present)

Alexander R. Vershbow
B.A. Yale 1974
Deputy Secretary-General of NATO (2012-present)

Stephen W. Preston
B.A. Yale 1979
General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency (2009-2013)



Bill Nelson
B.A. Yale 1965
U.S. Senator (D-Florida, 2001-present)

Sheldon Whitehouse
B.A. Yale 1978
U.S. Senator (D-Rhode Island, 2007-present)

Sherrod Brown
B.A. Yale 1974
U.S. Senator (D-Ohio, 2007-present)

Prominent Yale University Graduates and Their Occupation in 2013

Corporate Executives and Lawyers:
W. James (Jim) McNerney, Jr. (B.A. 1971) – Chairman and CEO of Boeing [airplane company] (2005-present)
Jeffrey L. Bewkes (B.A. 1974) – Chairman and CEO of Time Warner [media company] (2009-present)
Frederick W. Smith (B.A. 1966) – Chairman and CEO of Federal Express [FedEx Corp.] (1975-present)
Stephen M. Cutler (B.A. 1982, J.D. 1985) – Executive Vice President and General Counsel of JP Morgan Chase & Co. [bank] (2007-present)

Government Officials:
John Forbes Kerry (B.A. 1966, S&B 1966) – U.S. Secretary of State (February 1, 2013-present)
Ashton B. Carter (B.A. 1976, RS) – Deputy U.S. Secretary of Defense (October 5, 2011–December 3, 2013)
Neal S. Wolin (B.A. 1983, J.D. 1988) – Deputy U.S. Secretary of the Treasury (2009-2013)
Donald Verrilli Jr. (B.A. 1979) – Solicitor General of the United States (June 9, 2011-present)
Stephen W. Preston (B.A. 1979) – General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency (2009-2013)
Gary Locke (B.A. 1972) – U.S. Ambassador to Communist China (August 1, 2011-present)
David H. Thorne (B.A. 1966, S&B 1966) – U.S. Ambassador to Italy (2009-2013)
Charles H. Rivkin (B.A. 1984) – U.S. Ambassador to France (2009-2013)
Samantha Power (B.A. 1992, J.D. Harvard 1999) – U.S. Representative to the United Nations (2013-present)
Joseph Verner Reed Jr. (B.A. 1961) – Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations (1992-present)
Alexander R. Vershbow (B.A. 1974) – Deputy Secretary-General of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (2012-present); U.S. Ambassador to South Korea (2005-2008)
Elisse B. Walter (B.A. 1971) – Commissioner of U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (2008-present); Chairman of SEC (2012-2013)

Bill Nelson (B.A. 1965) – U.S. Senator (Democrat-Florida, 2001-present)
Sheldon Whitehouse (B.A. 1978) – U.S. Senator (Democrat-Rhode Island, 2007-present)
Sherrod Brown (B.A. 1974) – U.S. Senator (Democrat-Ohio, 2007-present)
Amy Klobuchar (B.A. 1982) – U.S. Senator (Democrat-Minnesota, 2007-present)
Lamar S. Smith (B.A. 1969) – U.S. Congressman (Republican-Texas, 1987-present)
Sheila Jackson-Lee (B.A. 1972) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-Texas, 1995-present)
John Yarmuth (B.A. 1969) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-Kentucky, 2007-present)
Mark Dayton (B.A. 1969) – Governor of Minnesota (2011-present)
John "Jack" Dalrymple (B.A. 1970) – Governor of North Dakota (2010-present)

Barrington D. Parker Jr. (B.A. 1965, LL.B. 1969) – Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (2001-present)
Richard A. Posner (B.A. 1959) – Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (1981-present)
Brett M. Kavanaugh (B.A. 1987) – Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for District of Columbia Circuit (2006-present)
George B. Daniels (B.A. 1975) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York [New York City] (2000-present)
Edgardo Ramos (B.A. 1982) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York [New York City] (2011-present)
James Knoll Gardner (B.A. 1962) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania [Philadelphia] (2002-present)
Douglas P. Woodlock (B.A. 1969, S&B 1969) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts [Boston] (1986-present)
Robert Michael Dow Jr. (B.A. 1987) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois [Chicago] (2007-present)
Richard G. Seeborg (B.A. 1978) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California [San Francisco] (2010-present)
Myron Herbert Thompson (B.A. 1969, J.D. 1972) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama (1980-present)
John W. Lungstrum (B.A. 1967) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas (1991-present)
Denise Page Hood (B.A. 1974) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan (1994-present)
James O. Browning (B.A. 1978) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico (2003-present)
Dora L. Irizarry (B.A. 1976) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York (2004-present)
James Emanuel Boasberg (B.A. 1985, J.D. 1990, S&B 1985) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (2011-present)
Kevin Charles McNulty (B.A. 1976) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey (2012-present)
Jesus Gilberto Bernal (B.A. 1986) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California (December 12, 2012-present)
Raymond Paul Moore (B.A. 1975, J.D. 1978) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado (2013-present)

College Administrators:
David L. Boren (B.A. 1963, S&B 1963, RS) – President of University of Oklahoma (1994-present)
Richard H. Brodhead (B.A. 1968, Ph.D. 1972) – President of Duke University [North Carolina] (2004-present)
Steven Knapp (B.A. 1973) – President of George Washington University (2007-present)
Marvin Krislov (B.A. 1982, J.D. 1988) – President of Oberlin College [Ohio] (2007-present)
Steven E. Hyman (B.A. 1974) – Provost of Harvard University (December 2001-present)
Michael A. Bernstein (B.A. 1976, Ph.D. 1982) – Provost of Tulane University (2007-present)
David M. Schizer (B.A. 1990; M.A. 1990; J.D. 1993) – Dean of Columbia Law School (2004-present)
Mary Elizabeth Magill (B.A. 1988) – Dean of Stanford Law School (2012-present)

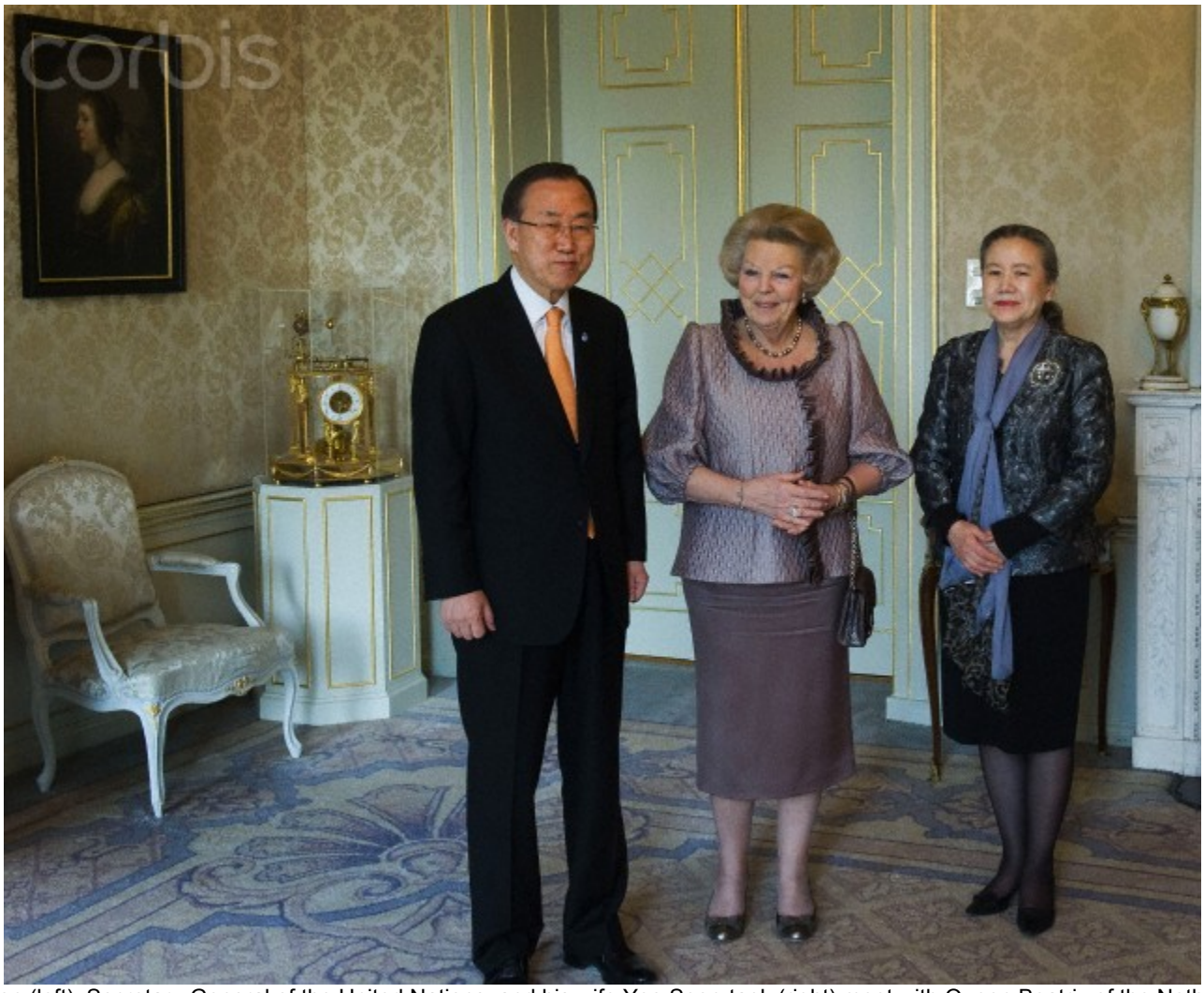
Journalists and Organization Executives:
Robert U. “Bob” Woodward (B.A. 1965) – *Washington Post* reporter (1971-present) and best-selling author
Robert W. Kagan (B.A. 1980, S&B 1980) – Columnist for *The Washington Post*; Co-Founder of the Project for the New American Century
Robert Greeley Kaiser (B.A. 1964) – Associate Editor and Senior Correspondent at *The Washington Post* (1998-present)
Fareed Zakaria (B.A. 1986, S&K 1986) – Editor of Newsweek International; Director of Council on Foreign Relations (2004-present)
Anderson Cooper (B.A. 1989) – CNN reporter (2001-present); anchor of *Anderson Cooper 360°* (2003-present)
Richard E. Salomon (B.A. 1964) – Vice Chairman of the Council on Foreign Relations (2007-present)
Strobe Talbott (B.A. 1968) – President of The Brookings Institution (2002-present)
Carl Gershman (B.A. 1965) – President of the National Endowment for Democracy (1984-present)
Note: S&B=Skull & Bones, RS=Rhodes Scholar, S&K=Scroll & Key

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen (left) visits South Korea's President Park Geun-hye, the daughter of the late President Gen. Park Chung-hee, in Seoul, Republic of Korea (South Korea) on April 12, 2013. Anders Fogh Rasmussen is the first NATO Secretary General ever to visit the Republic of Korea. (Photo: NATO)

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen (center) visits the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) at Panmunjom, Korea on April 12, 2013. Anders Fogh Rasmussen attended the Bilderberg Meetings in 2000 and 2003. (Photo: NATO)

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon (left) and United States Secretary of State John Kerry (right) speak to the press at the State Department in Washington, D.C. on February 13, 2013. John Kerry and Ban Ki-moon discussed bilateral issues including the situation with North Korea. (Photo: Mark Wilson/Getty Images North America)

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (center), Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (right) and Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi appear at the opening ceremony of the 16th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Tehran, Iran on August 30, 2012. (Photo: Global Research)



Ban Ki-moon (left), Secretary-General of the United Nations, and his wife Yoo Soon-taek (right) meet with Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands during the official photo session at the Royal Palace Huis ten Bosch in The Hague, Netherlands on April 7, 2013. (REUTERS/Toussaint Kluiters/United Photos)

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (left) meets with U.S. President Barack Obama at the White House in Washington, D.C. on April 11, 2013. (UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe)

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, on April 13, 2013. Gary Locke (left), the U.S. Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, is seated next to Kerry. [State Department photo/ Public Domain] http://www.flickr.com/photos/statephotos/8644372683/in/photostream

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry (left) meets with Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe during his visit to Tokyo, Japan on April 15, 2013. [State Department photo by William Ng/Public Domain] http://www.flickr.com/photos/statephotos/8652453168/in/photostream

North Korean men working for ShinWon, a South Korean clothing maker, prepare garments for production at a factory in Kaesong, North Korea in September 2012. North Korea says it will recall 51,000 North Korean workers and suspend operations at a factory complex that is the last major symbol of co-operation with its southern rival. *(Jean H. Lee/Associated Press)*

A Korean truck driver driving a Daewoo truck arrives at a border crossing in South Korea from the nearby North Korean city of Kaesong in April 2013.

The gateways to the North Korea's city of Kaesong are shut down at the Inter-Korean Transit Office in Paju, South Korea, near the border village of Panmunjom, Thursday, April 4, 2013. North Korea on Wednesday barred South Korean workers from entering a jointly run factory park just over the heavily armed border in the North, officials in Seoul said, a day after Pyongyang announced it would restart its long-shuttered plutonium reactor and increase production of nuclear weapons material. The letters at top read "Inter-Korean Transit Office." (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

A South Korean truck transporting products made in KIC (Kaesong Industrial Complex) passes through a gate at the South's CIQ (Customs, Immigration and Quarantine), just south of the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas, in Paju, north of Seoul, April 8, 2013. North Korea said on Monday it would withdraw its workers from the Kaesong factory park jointly run with South Korea and temporarily suspend all operations there. The sign board reads "Inter-Korean Transit Office". (REUTERS/Kim Hong-Ji)

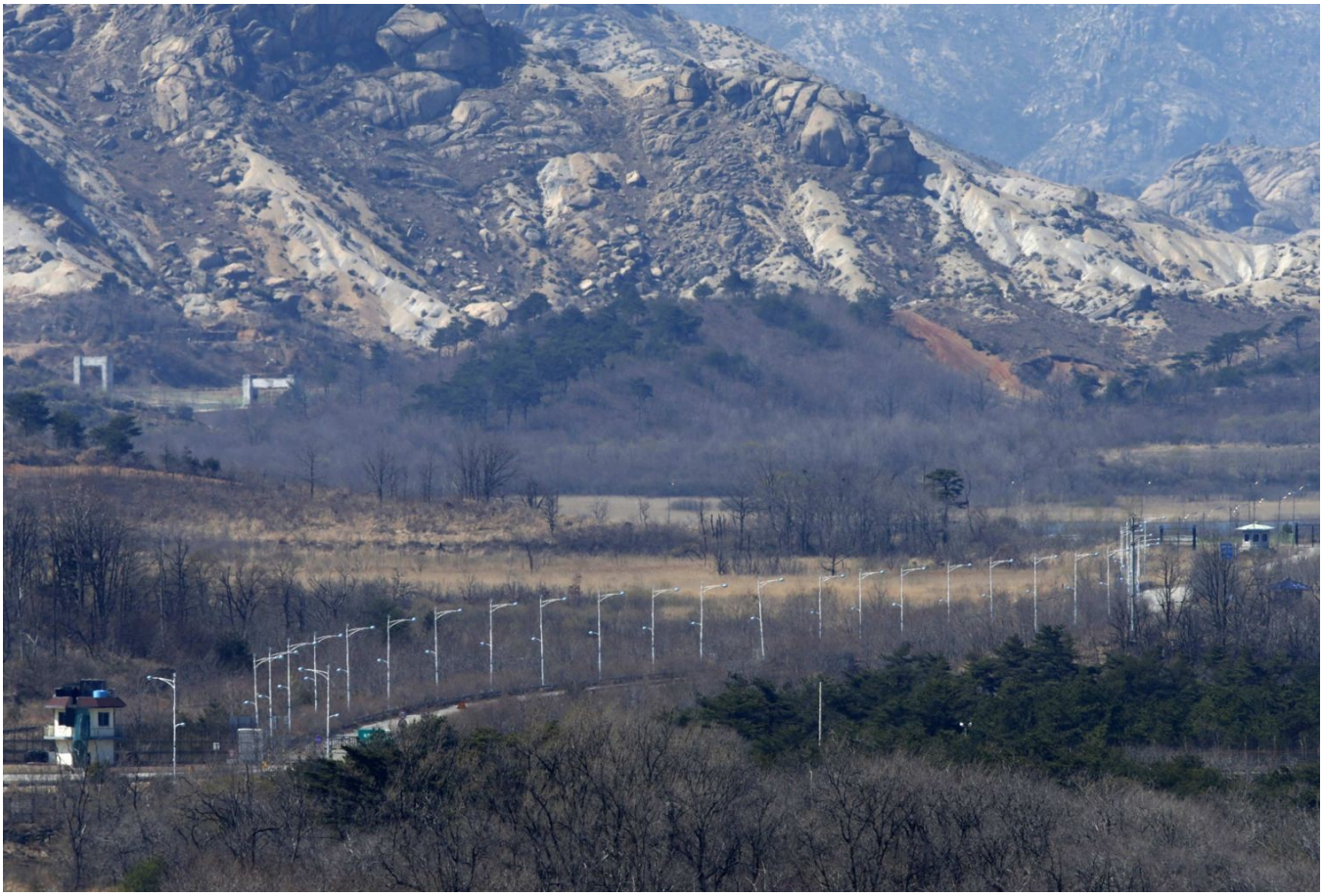
South Korean army soldier stand guard on Unification Bridge in Paju, South Korea, near the border village of Panmunjom, on Tuesday, April 16, 2013. North Koreans danced in plazas and snacked on peanuts as part of holiday festivities while the Supreme Command led by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un offered more of the fiery language that has made the international community wary of an imminent missile launch or other provocation. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

A South Korean army soldier moves a part of barricade for the media to enter at Unification Bridge, near the border village of Panmunjom, in Paju, north of Seoul, South Korea, on April 9, 2013. (Associated Press Photo)

Kaesong, North Korea

In this March 17, 2013 file photo released by the South Korean Navy via Yonhap on March 18, 2013, South Korea and U.S. warships participate in their joint military drill "Foal Eagle" in South Korea's West Sea. In its latest account of national defense efforts, China said Tuesday, April 16, 2013, that the United States is destabilizing the Asia-Pacific region by strengthening its military alliances and sending more ships, planes, and troops to the area. (AP Photo/South Korea Navy via Yonhap, File)

A view of a highway that runs through the Demilitarized Zone near Panmunjom, Korea



A South Korean guard post (left) and a North Korean guard post (right) are seen on the road leading to North Korea's Mount Kumgang resort, in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas in this picture taken from the Unification Observatory, just south of the DMZ, in Goseong, about 330 km (205 miles) northeast of Seoul on April 11, 2013. The late North Korean Communist ruler Kim Il-Sung's birthday, called "the Day of the Sun", will be celebrated in North Korea on April 15, 2013. (REUTERS/Lee Jae-Won)

General Satellite Control and Command Center somewhere in North Korea on December 12, 2012
(Photo: http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?209686-The-Unofficial-Korean-People-s-Army-Thread/page14)

Unha-3 missile on launch pad in North Korea in April 2012
(Photo: http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?209686-The-Unofficial-Korean-People-s-Army-Thread/page14)

North Korea's Commissar Kim Jong-Un smokes a cigarette at the General Satellite Control and Command Center on December 12, 2012. (Photo: Military Photos)

A North Korean soldier stands in front of a launch site with a Unha-3 missile
(Photo: http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?209686-The-Unofficial-Korean-People-s-Army-Thread/page13)

North Korea’s Commissar Kim Jong-Un smokes a cigarette at the General Satellite Control and Command Center after the launch of the Unha-3 (Milky Way 3) rocket carrying the second version of Kwangmyongsong-3 satellite at West Sea Satellite Launch Site in Cholsan county, on December 12, 2012, in this picture released by the North's KCNA news agency in Pyongyang December 13, 2012. (Photo by KCNA)
http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?209686-The-Unofficial-Korean-People-s-Army-Thread/page18

Closely escorted, North Korea’s new Commissar Kim Jong Un visits the Command of Large Combined Unit 671 of the Korean People's Army in this undated picture released by the North's KCNA in Pyongyang, on January 22, 2012. (Photo by KCNA)

A view is seen of a parade of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and a mass rally in Pyongyang September 9, 2013 in celebration of the 65th anniversary of North Korea in this picture released by the North's official KCNA news agency on Monday. (REUTERS/KCNA)

North Korean troops march during a military parade at Kim Il Sung Square to mark the 65th anniversary of the country's founding in Pyongyang, North Korea, Monday, Sept. 9, 2013. (AP Photo/Jon Chol Jin)

North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un (C) attends a parade of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and a mass rally in Pyongyang September 9, 2013 in celebration of the 65th anniversary of North Korea in this picture released by the North's official KCNA news agency on Monday. (REUTERS/KCNA)

North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un (C) attends a parade of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and a mass rally in Pyongyang September 9, 2013 in celebration of the 65th anniversary of North Korea in this picture released by the North's official KCNA news agency on Monday. (REUTERS/KCNA)

The Arrest and Execution of Kim Jong Un's Uncle Jang Song Thaek

Jang Song Thaek, center, uncle of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, was detained during an emergency meeting of Workers Party's Central Committee in Pyongyang, North Korea on Sunday, December 8, 2013. Jang Song Thaek was executed on December 12, 2013 for treason and other crimes.

People watch a TV news program at Seoul Railway Station, South Korea, Monday, December 9, 2013 showing Jang Song Thaek, center, uncle of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, being grabbed during an emergency meeting of Workers Party's Central Committee in Pyongyang the day before. North Korea announced Monday it had sacked leader Jang, long considered the country's No. 2 power, saying corruption, drug use, gambling, womanizing and generally leading a "dissolute and depraved life" had caused Pyongyang's highest-profile fall from grace since Kim took power two years ago. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

North Korea says Jang Song Thaek, uncle of leader Kim Jong Un, executed

December 12, 2013

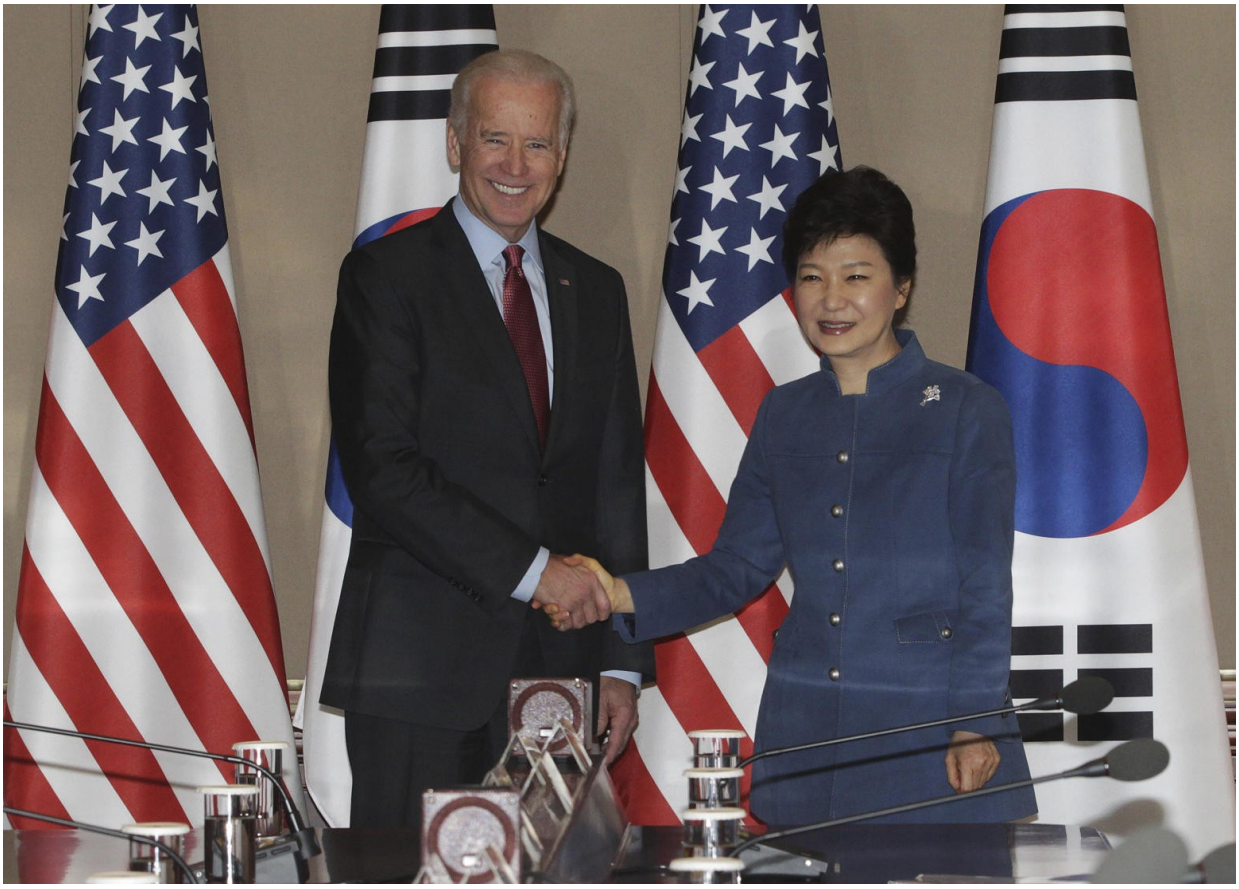
SEOUL (Reuters) – North Korea said on Friday Jang Song Thaek, the uncle of leader Kim Jong Un and previously considered the second most powerful man in the secretive state, has been executed after a special military tribunal found him **guilty of treason**. "The accused Jang brought together undesirable forces and formed a faction as the boss of a modern day factional group for a long time and thus committed such hideous crime as attempting to overthrow the state," the North's official KCNA news agency said. The official Rodong Sinmun newspaper on Friday carried a photograph of Jang in handcuffs and being held by uniformed guards as he stood trial. Earlier this week North Korea stripped Jang of all posts and expelled him from the ruling Workers' Party, accusing him of criminal acts including mismanagement of the state financial system, womanizing and alcohol abuse." "From long ago, Jang had a dirty political ambition. He dared not raise his head when Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il were alive," KCNA said, referring to leader Kim's grandfather and father, who were previous rulers of the dynastic state. "He began revealing his true colors, thinking that it was just the time for him to realize his wild ambition in the period of historic turn when the generation of the revolution was replaced." The execution caps a spectacular downfall of the husband of leader Kim's aunt. Jang had previously suffered purges but fought his way back to the power circle to hold influential positions in the ruling party and the military.

(Reporting by Jack Kim; editing by Andrew Roche and Jim loney)

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/north-korea-says-jang-song-thaek-uncle-leader-215623738.html

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, second left, walks with his uncle Jang Song Thaek, right; his chief secretary, Kim Chang Son, second from right, and Vice Marshal Choe Ryong Hae, far left, as he tours the newly opened Fatherland Liberation War Museum during events marking the 60th anniversary of the end of the Korean War in Pyongyang, North Korea on July 27, 2013. North Korea announced Monday, Dec. 9, 2013, it had sacked leader Kim Jong Un's uncle, Jang Song Thaek, long considered the country's No. 2 power, saying corruption, drug use, gambling, womanizing and generally leading a "dissolute and depraved life" had caused Pyongyang's highest-profile fall from grace since Kim took power two years ago. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

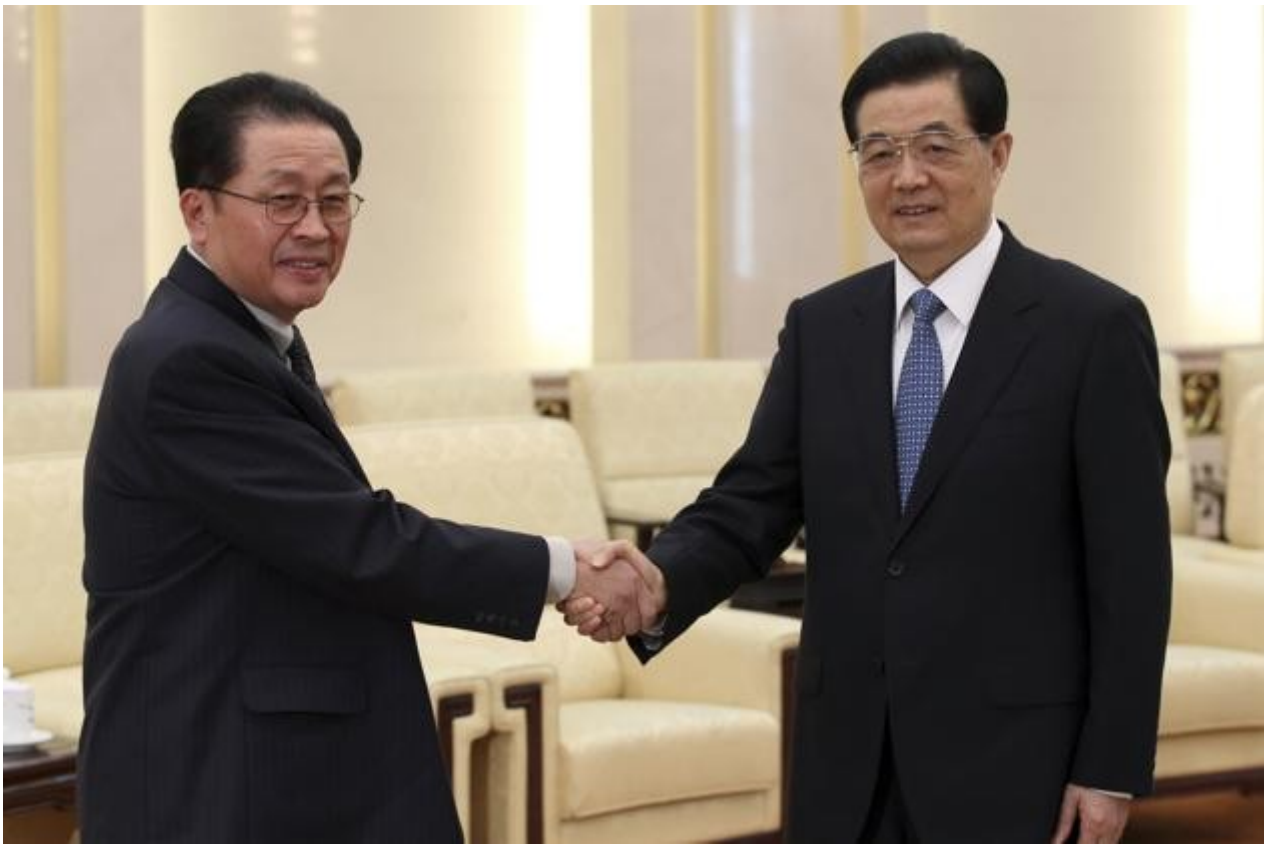
South Korean President Park Geun-hye shakes hands with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde (left) before their meeting at the Blue House presidential palace in Seoul, South Korea on December 4, 2013. (REUTERS/Lee Jin-man/Pool)



President of South Korea Park Geun-hye (right) shakes hands with U.S. Vice President Joe Biden before their meeting at the Blue House in Seoul, South Korea on December 6, 2013. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon. Pool)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un (right), walks past his uncle North Korean politician Jang Song-thaek during a military parade to mark the birth anniversary of the late leader, Kim Jong-il in Pyongyang, North Korea in this file photo taken by Kyodo on February 16, 2012. (REUTERS/Kyodo/File)

North Korean despot Kim Jong-il (center) visits a military unit in this undated file picture released by the North's KCNA in Pyongyang, North Korea on December 28, 2011. Kim, who ruled isolated and impoverished North Korea from 1994, died on December 17, 2011. Kim's brother-in-law Jang Song-thaek is seen in the background. (REUTERS/KCNA)



China's President of Communist China Hu Jintao (right) shakes hands with Jang song-thaek, Chief of the Central Administrative Department of the Workers' Party of Korea, in Beijing, Communist China on August 17, 2012. (REUTERS/China Daily)

Jang Song Thaek, North Korea's vice chairman of the powerful National Defense Commission, attends the third meeting on developing the economic zones in North Korea, in Beijing, Communist China on Tuesday, August 14, 2012.
(AP Photo/Xinhua, Li Xin, File)

Yeonpyeong Island Incident (November 23, 2010)

This picture taken on November 23, 2010 by a South Korean tourist shows huge plumes of smoke rising from Yeonpyeong Island in the disputed waters of the Yellow Sea on November 23, 2010. North Korea fired dozens of artillery shells onto the South Korean island on November 23, 2010, killing two people, setting homes ablaze and triggering an exchange of fire as the South's military went on top alert. (Getty Images)

South Korean war veterans burn North Korean flags during an anti-North Korea rally on November 30, 2010 in Seoul, South Korea. South Korean and American military forces began war games exercises Sunday as tensions between the two Koreas remain high following an artillery exchange on the disputed island of Yeonpyeong on November 24. (Getty Images)

Protesters holding placards pray in silence for the victims during a rally against North Korea in Seoul on November 30, 2010. Some 50 civic group members held the rally against North Korea's bombardment on South Korea's Yeonpyeong island on November 23. South Korea deployed rocket launchers and extra artillery on a frontline border island bombarded last week by North Korea, as Seoul's leader vowed on November 29 to make Pyongyang pay for any fresh provocations. (Getty Images)

North Korea's ruler Kim Jong-il (center) and his son Kim Jong-un (left) appear in an undated photo. Kim Jong-un succeeded his father as the Supreme Leader of North Korea on December 17, 2011. Kim Jong-il died in Pyongyang on December 17, 2011.

A South Korean protester holds a burning North Korean flag during an anti-North Korea rally in Seoul, South Korea on June 6, 2007. Tens of thousands of South Korean activists and veterans staged a protest against North Korea's nuclear weapons on Memorial Day, when the country remembers those killed in the 1950-1953 conflict. (AFP/Getty Images)

South Korean protesters hold up placards during an anti-North Korea rally in Seoul, South Korea on June 25, 2007, to mark the 57th anniversary of the outbreak of the 1950-1953 Korean War. The protest comes amid a flurry of diplomacy to push for quick progress on a six-nation deal on disabling North Korea's nuclear weapons program. (AFP/Getty Images)

South Korean protesters burn a North Korean flag during an anti-North Korea rally in Seoul, South Korea on June 22, 2004. (Photo by Chung Sung-Jun/Getty Images)

Protesters burn communist North Korean flags at an anti-North Korea protest opposing the planned inter-Korean summit near the presidential Blue House in Seoul on August 9, 2007. (Reuters/Lee Jae-Won)

South Korean protesters hold placards with pictures of North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Il during an anti-North Korea rally in Seoul, South Korea on June 6, 2007. Tens of thousands of South Korean activists and veterans staged a protest against North Korea's nuclear weapons on Memorial Day, when the country remembers those killed in the 1950-1953 conflict. (AFP/Getty Images)

South Korean activists hold anti-North Korean placards with pictures of Kim Jong-Il during a protest outside a luxury hotel where inter-Korean ministerial talks were held on June 1, 2007. The slogans demand North Korea scrap its nuclear program. The four-day meeting broke down over the delayed shipment of rice from South Korea. (AFP/Getty Images)

South Koreans condemn North Korean tyrant Kim Jong-Il.
(Photo: http://asapblogs.typepad.com/photos/uncategorized/2007/06/15/shoo_32955133_6ao.jpg)

South Korean Christians and conservative protesters carry huge flags of South Korea and U.S. over their heads in front of City Hall during an anti North Korea rally as part of the South Korean Memorial Day in Seoul, South Korea on June 6, 2007. South Korea today marks the 52nd anniversary of the Memorial Day for those killed in the 1950-1953 Korean War. (Getty Images)

South Koreans read extras reporting the death of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il at the Seoul train station in Seoul, South Korea on Monday, December 19, 2011. The headline reads “The death of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.”
(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

Pyongyang residents react as they mourn over the death of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang, North Korea, in this photo taken by Kyodo on December 19, 2011. (Reuters/Kyodo)

North Korea’s new leader Kim Jong Un (4th from left) salutes as he and his uncle Jang Song-thaek (3rd from left) accompany the hearse carrying the coffin of late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il during his funeral procession in Pyongyang, on December 28, 2011. North Korea's military staged a huge funeral procession on Wednesday in the snowy streets of the capital Pyongyang for its deceased "dear leader," Kim Jong Il, readying a transition to his son, Kim Jong-un. Ri Yong-ho, Chief of General Staff of the Korea People's Army, salutes on the right. (Reuters/Kyodo)

The body of the late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il lies in state at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace in Pyongyang, North Korea on December 26, 2011. (Reuters/KCNA)

South Korean army soldiers patrol along a barbed-wire fence in Paju, South Korea, near the border village of Panmunjom, on Tuesday, March 26, 2013. North Korea's military warned Tuesday that its artillery and rocket forces are at their highest-level combat posture in the latest in a string of bellicose threats aimed at South Korea and the United States. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

Anti-North Korea protesters chant slogans as they burn effigies of North Korea's founder Kim Il-sung (R) and late leader Kim Jong-il during a rally to mark the 3rd anniversary of the sinking of South Korean navy ship Cheonan near the U.S. embassy in central Seoul March 26, 2013. South Korean naval corvette Cheonan, which was believed to be torpedoed by North Korea, killing 46 sailors, sank on March 26, 2010 off the south Baengnyeong Island, near the disputed sea border with the north. (REUTERS/Kim Hong-Ji)

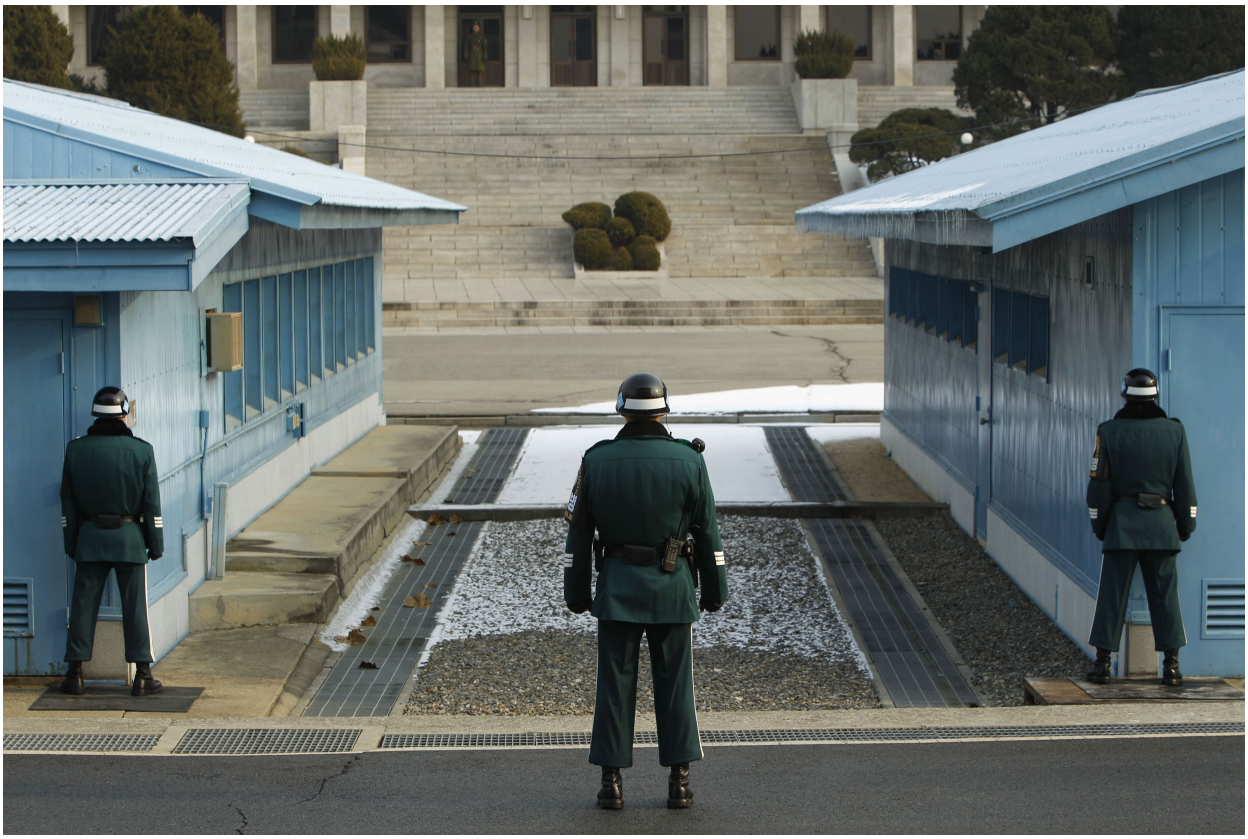
In this Tuesday, February 5, 2013 photo, nuclear power plants, Kori 1, right, and Shin Kori 2 are seen in Ulsan, South Korea. North Korea's weapons program is not the only nuclear headache for South Korea. The country's radioactive waste storage is filling up as its nuclear power industry burgeons, but what South Korea sees as its best solution – reprocessing the spent fuel so it can be used again – faces stiff opposition from its American ally. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

In this Dec. 8, 2012 file photo, Chinese paramilitary policemen build a fence near a concrete marker depicting the North Korean and Chinese national flags with the words "China North Korea Border" at a crossing in the Chinese border town of Tumen in eastern China's Jilin province. China is trying to punish ally North Korea for its nuclear and missile tests, stepping up inspections of North Korean-bound cargo in a calibrated effort to send a message of Chinese pique without further provoking a testy Pyongyang government. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan, File)

U.S. President Barack Obama visits U.S. military personnel stationed at Observation Post Ouellette along the Demilitarized Zone, which borders North and South Korea, outside Seoul, South Korea on March 25, 2012. (REUTERS/Larry Downing)
http://www.euronews.com/picture-of-the-day/2012/03/25/obama-visits-korean-dmz/

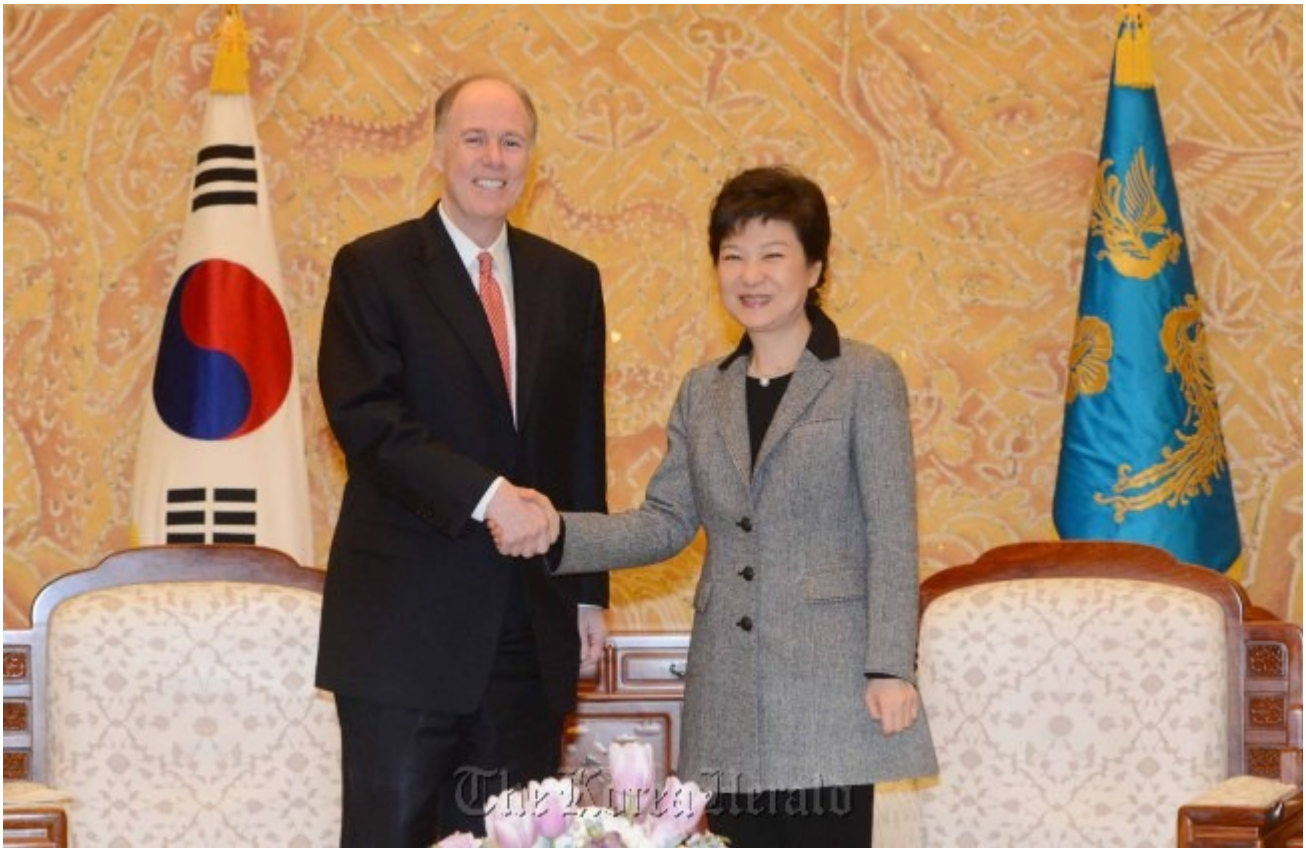
President Barack Obama and President Lee Myung-bak participate in a press conference at the Blue House in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on March 25, 2012. (Official White House Photo by Chuck Kennedy)

United States President Barack Obama delivers a speech to American soldiers, sailors, and airmen at Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, Republic of Korea on November 11, 2010 (Veteran's Day). About 28,500 American soldiers are stationed in South Korea as a legacy of the 1950-1953 Korean War that ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.



South Korean military policemen stand at attention outside the conference hall at Panmunjom Village at the De-Militarized Zone.

South Korea's President Lee Myung-bak speaks at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City on September 21, 2009. (Photo: Council on Foreign Relations)


South Korea's President Park Geun-hye (right) meets with U.S. National Security Adviser Tom Donilon at the Blue House near Seoul on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, one day after President Park's inauguration. Tom Donilon is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private organization in New York City. (Photo: Chung Hee-cho/The Korea Herald)

The Swedish Embassy and **British Embassy** in Pyongyang, North Korea are located in the same building that served as the headquarters of the former German Democratic Republic (East German, GDR) Embassy.
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/kernbeisser/4330152326/)

A placard displayed at the British Embassy in Pyongyang, North Korea

Russian Embassy in Pyongyang, North Korea
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/kernbeisser/4296664723/in/set-72157623070085604/)

UNICEF office in Pyongyang, North Korea
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/kernbeisser/4318045885/in/photostream/)

Cuban Embassy in Pyongyang, North Korea (Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/kernbeisser/4324141779/in/photostream/)

Embassy of the State of Palestine in Pyongyang, North Korea
(Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/kernbeisser/4324875814/in/photostream/)

Furious over sanctions, North Korea vows to nuke United States

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press
March 7, 2013

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea vowed on Thursday to launch a pre-emptive nuclear strike against the United States, amplifying its threatening rhetoric hours ahead of a vote by U.N. diplomats on whether to level new sanctions against Pyongyang for its recent nuclear test.

An unidentified spokesman for Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry said the North will exercise its right for "a preemptive nuclear attack to destroy the strongholds of the aggressors" because Washington is pushing to start a nuclear war against the North.

Although North Korea boasts of nuclear bombs and pre-emptive strikes, it is not thought to have mastered the ability to produce a warhead small enough to put on a missile capable of reaching the U.S. It is believed to have enough nuclear fuel, however, for several crude nuclear devices.

Such inflammatory rhetoric is common from North Korea, and especially so in recent days. North Korea is angry over the possible sanctions and over upcoming U.S.-South Korean military drills. At a mass rally in Pyongyang on Thursday, tens of thousands of North Koreans protested the U.S.-South Korean war drills and sanctions.

"Now our enemies are trying to make additional sanctions against us, but we can never accept this," said Ri Kum Il, a Pyongyang citizen at the rally. "We will make a preemptive nuclear attack against our enemies wherever they are and turn their strongholds into a sea of flames."

The U.N. Security Council is set to impose a fourth round of sanctions against Pyongyang in a fresh attempt to rein in its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, the current council president, said the council would vote on the draft sanctions resolution Thursday morning.

The resolution was drafted by the United States and China, North Korea's closest ally. The council's agreement to put the resolution to a vote just 48 hours later signaled that it would almost certainly have the support of all 15 council members.

The statement by the North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman was carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

It accused the U.S. of leading efforts to slap sanctions on North Korea. The statement said the new sanctions would only advance the timing for North Korea to fulfill previous vows to take "powerful second and third countermeasures" against its enemies. It hasn't elaborated on those measures.

The statement said North Korea "strongly warns the U.N. Security Council not to make another big blunder like the one in the past when it earned the inveterate grudge of the Korean nation by acting as a war servant for the U.S. in 1950."

North Korea demanded the U.N. Security Council immediately dismantle the American-led U.N. Command that's based in Seoul and move to end the state of war that exists on the Korean Peninsula, which continues six decades after fighting stopped because an armistice, not a peace treaty, ended the war.

In anticipation of the resolution's adoption, North Korea earlier in the week threatened to cancel the 1953 cease-fire that ended the Korean War.

North Korean threats have become more common as tensions have escalated following a rocket launch by Pyongyang in December and its third nuclear test on Feb. 12. Both acts defied three Security Council resolutions that bar North Korea from testing or using nuclear or ballistic missile technology and from importing or exporting material for these programs.

U.S. U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice said the proposed resolution, to be voted on at 10 a.m. EST (1500 GMT), would impose some of the strongest sanctions ever ordered by the United Nations.

The final version of the draft resolution, released Wednesday, identified three individuals, one corporation and one organization that would be added to the U.N. sanctions list if the measure is approved.

The targets include top officials at a company that is the country's primary arms dealer and main exporter of ballistic missile-related equipment, and a national organization responsible for research and development of missiles and probably nuclear weapons.

The success of a new round of sanctions could depend on enforcement by China, where most of the companies and banks that North Korea is believed to work with are based.

The United States and other nations worry that North Korea's third nuclear test pushed it closer to its goal of gaining nuclear missiles that can reach the U.S. The international community has condemned the regime's nuclear and missile efforts as threats to regional security and a drain on the resources that could go to North Korea's largely destitute people.

The draft resolution condemns the latest nuclear test "in the strongest terms" for violating and flagrantly disregarding council resolutions, bans further ballistic missile launches, nuclear tests "or any other provocation," and demands that North Korea return to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. It also condemns all of North Korea's ongoing nuclear activities, including its uranium enrichment.

But the proposed resolution stresses the council's commitment "to a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution" and urged a resumption of six-party talks with the aim of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula "in a peaceful manner."

The proposed resolution would make it significantly harder for North Korea to move around the funds it needs to carry out its illicit programs and strengthen existing sanctions and the inspection of suspect cargo bound to and from the country. It would also ban countries from exporting specific luxury goods to the North, including yachts, luxury automobiles, racing cars, and jewelry with semi-precious and precious stones and precious metals.

According to the draft, all countries would now be required to freeze financial transactions or services that could contribute to North Korea's nuclear or missile programs.

To get around financial sanctions, North Koreans have been carrying around large suitcases filled with cash to move illicit funds. The draft resolution expresses concern that these bulk cash transfers may be used to evade sanctions. It clarifies that the freeze on financial transactions and services that could violate sanctions applies to all cash transfers as well as the cash couriers.

The proposed resolution also bans all countries from providing public financial support for trade deals, such as granting export credits, guarantees or insurance, if the assistance could contribute to the North's nuclear or missile programs.

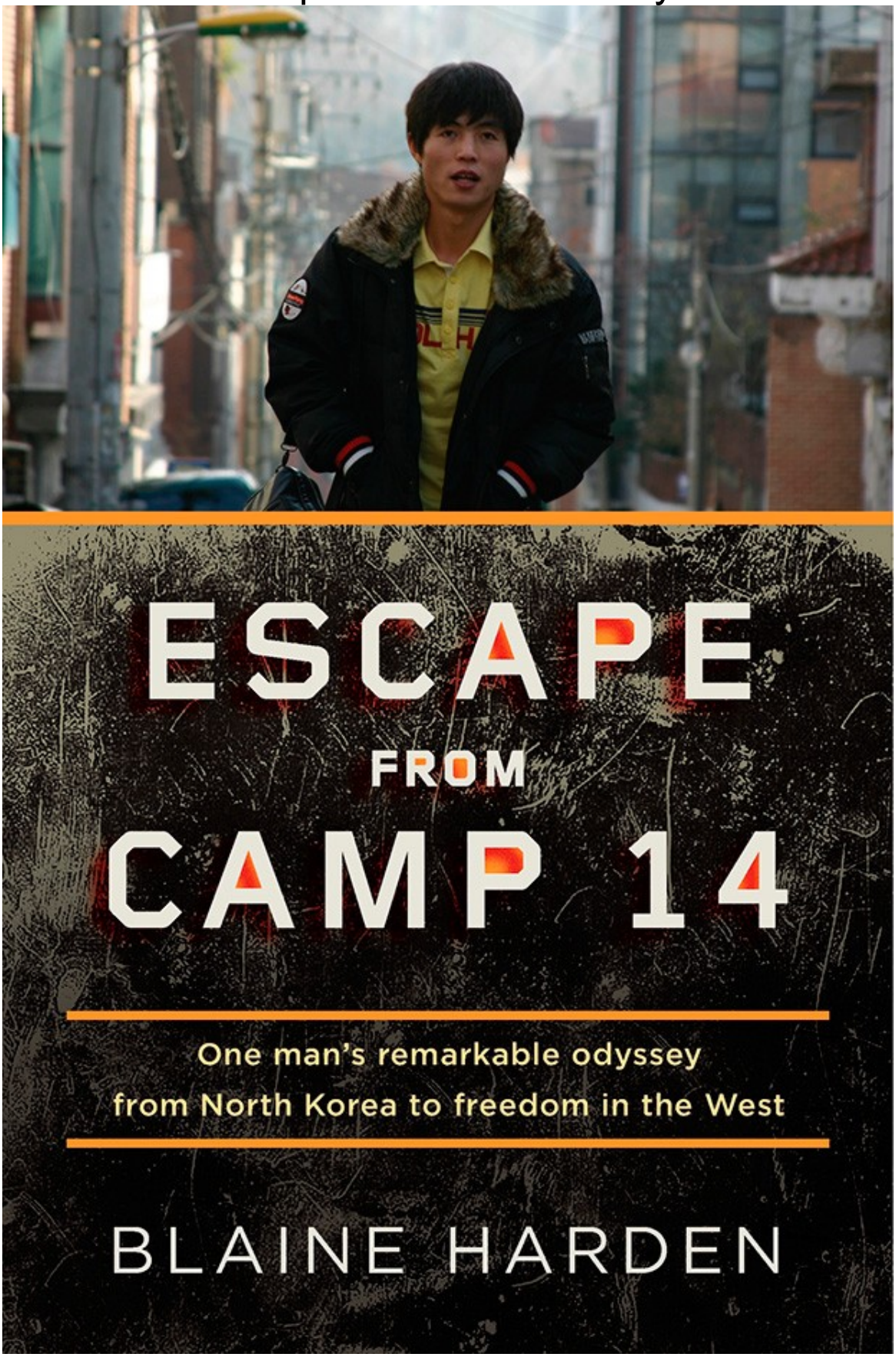
It includes what a senior diplomat called unprecedented new travel sanctions that would require countries to expel agents working for sanctioned North Korean companies.

The draft also requires states to inspect suspect cargo on their territory and prevent any vessel that refuses an inspection from entering their ports. And a new aviation measure calls on states to deny aircraft permission to take off, land or fly over their territory if illicit cargo is suspected to be aboard.

Lederer reported from the United Nations. Foster Klug in Seoul contributed to this report.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/furious-over-sanctions-nkorea-vows-nuke-us-092213643.html

Concentration Camps and Child Slavery in North Korea



Shin Dong-hyuk (above), a Korean man who defected from North Korea and sought political asylum in South Korea, escaped Camp 14 near Pyongyang, North Korea. Camp 14 is a concentration camp for families whose loyalty to the "Dear Leader" is questionable. Shin Dong-hyuk was born and raised in Camp 14 and endured starvation, torture, and slavery for 23 years before escaping from the concentration camp.

The Casual Horrors of Life in a North Korean Hell

'Escape From Camp 14,' by Blaine Harden
By JANET MASLIN
New York Times
Published: April 11, 2012

When Blaine Harden wrote his shocking 2008 profile of Shin Dong-hyuk for The Washington Post, Mr. Shin was living in Seoul, South Korea, and already a published author. He had written "Escape to the Outside World," a 2007 Korean-language account of his horrific upbringing.

Mr. Shin was born in a North Korean forced-labor camp and then found his way to freedom. There were some problems with playing back this account verbatim. So Mr. Harden's dramatic front-page article, "North Korean Prison Camp Escapee Tells of Horrors, Worries About Those Left Behind," took care to include a disclaimer: "Shin's story could not be independently verified, but it has been vetted and vouched for by leading human-rights activists and members of defector organizations in Seoul," The Post article said.

Unfortunately, the disclaimer turned out to be necessary. As Mr. Harden now acknowledges in "Escape From Camp 14," his blunt, best-selling book about Mr. Shin's life, Mr. Shin had built his own memoir upon a gigantic lie.

In his account Mr. Shin claimed to have been a helpless innocent witness to the execution of his mother and brother when Mr. Shin was only 14. He had indeed been helpless, and he had the torture marks to prove it.

But, as Mr. Harden discovered about a year into the interviewing process for this book, Mr. Shin's original account omitted a crucial detail: He was responsible for the executions. He had snitched to a prison guard about an escape his mother and brother were planning, knowing full well that escape plans were punishable by death.

Mr. Shin admitted to Mr. Harden that he had made this trade-off to get more food and an easier job at school. And he said he had done it without regrets. He thought that his mother and brother deserved to die.

"In writing this book, I have sometimes struggled to trust him," Mr. Harden writes understandably in "Escape From Camp 14." Mr. Harden tries to fathom a cryptic, troubled and not entirely sympathetic young man whose circumstances lend themselves to exaggeration.

What's more, the new book uses dialogue borrowed from Mr. Shin's disingenuous 2007 version. "Escape From Camp 14" also includes simple line drawings (as Mr. Shin's book had) that give the most traumatic parts of his story — torture, imprisonment, maiming, executions — the look of action comics. The most benign of these pictures carries this caption: "Children in the camps scavenged constantly for food, eating rats, insects and undigested kernels of corn they found in cow dung."

Readers may well be won over by the sharp, declarative, young-adult style of Mr. Harden's adventure writing. They will respond to urgent concern about conditions in North Korean prison camps, which are now visible via satellite photographs. And most misgivings about "Escape From Camp 14" will be outweighed by the power of a fast, brutal read.

This is not a familiar prison camp story; as Mr. Harden points out, Shin Dong-hyuk is not Elie Wiesel. "God did not disappear or die," Mr. Harden writes. "Shin had never heard of him."

Mr. Shin did not spend his imprisonment missing love, joy, civilization or comfort, because he had never experienced such things. As the spawn of a "reward marriage" — considered "the ultimate bonus for hard work and reliable snitching" — he had no real family ties.

The book says that he regarded his mother as a rival for food and was right to do so; she once beat him with a hoe for eating her lunch. As a young child, he saw schoolmates maimed or even killed for minor transgressions and he learned to obey the camp's totalitarian rules.

Much of this book's impact comes from its nonstop parade of ghastly details. Mr. Harden writes of how prisoners harvested frozen human excrement — chipped from toilets — to make up for North Korea's shortage of other fertilizer; how eating rats could help stave off pellagra; how a former North Korean Army officer in another camp, despairing, jumped down a coal mine shaft, hoping to die.

But “Shin’s misery never skidded into complete hopelessness,” Mr. Harden writes in typically plain, forthright style. “He had no hope to lose, no past to mourn, no pride to defend. He did not find it degrading to lick soup off the floor. He was not ashamed to beg a guard for forgiveness. It didn’t trouble his conscience to betray a friend for food. These were merely survival skills, not motives for suicide.”

Not even the peremptory chopping off of part of Mr. Shin’s middle finger — an event that warrants only two paragraphs in Mr. Harden’s parade of horrors — was enough to set Mr. Shin’s escape plans in motion. What did it was the arrival of a worldly prisoner who made him realize what he was missing.

“He explained that the world was round,” the book says of Park Yong Chul, the first person to tell Mr. Shin about a North Korean city called Pyongyang and about what it was like to eat grilled meat. “He fantasized about escaping with Park because he wanted to eat like Park.”

The escape provides one of the book’s grisliest stories, which is saying a lot. (Hint: “The human body is unpredictable when it comes to conducting electricity.”) And Mr. Shin finds himself outside the camp, alone. “Escape from Camp 14” follows his steps to China, then Seoul, then California and Seattle and on again (he now lives in Seoul and Washington), but it becomes less certain with each step forward. Just as Mr. Shin, “a scrawny, incurious and for the most part friendless child whose one source of certainty was the guards’ lectures about redemption through snitching,” is not a model prisoner, his is not a model redemption.

The book ends on an uncertain note, with Mr. Shin’s delivering a slick, carefully prepared speech about his own ordeal and the urgent need to liberate other North Korean prisoners. “In that speech, if not yet in his life, Shin had seized control of his past,” Mr. Harden writes cautiously.

But “Escape From Camp 14” offers no easy answers about how Mr. Shin can deal with a newly guilty conscience, a lack of introspection, a checkered work history and the difficult adjustment to post-traumatic life. He had remarkable powers of endurance against the toughest physical torment. Those powers are being tested still.

This article has been revised to reflect the following correction:

Correction: April 13, 2012

The Books of The Times review on Thursday, about “Escape From Camp 14: One Man’s Remarkable Odyssey From North Korea to Freedom in the West,” by Blaine Harden, misidentified the prisoner who tried to kill himself by jumping down a coal mine shaft. It was Kim Yong, a former North Korean Army officer — not Shin Dong-hyuk, the subject of the book.

A version of this review appeared in print on April 12, 2012, on page C7 of the New York edition with the headline: The Casual Horrors of Life in a North Korean Hell.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/12/books/escape-from-camp-14-by-blaine-harden.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

US sergeant surrenders after 40 years

By George Nishiyama
Camp Zama, Japan
September 12, 2004

US Army Sergeant Charles Robert Jenkins yesterday gave himself up at an American army base in Japan. (Picture: AP)

US Army Sergeant Charles Robert Jenkins gave himself up a US base in Japan today to face charges that he deserted to communist North Korea four decades ago while on patrol in South Korea. His surrender is a big step towards resolving a diplomatic headache for the United States and close ally Japan.

Wearing a suit and tie, the 64-year-old Jenkins gave a long salute as he was received by Lieutenant Colonel Paul Nigara at Camp Zama, the US Army's headquarters in Japan west of the capital. "Sir, I'm Sgt Jenkins, and I'm reporting," he was quoted as saying by a US army statement.

Unlike some accused deserters thought to be at risk of trying to flee, Jenkins was not put into handcuffs or leg irons, partly out of sensitivity to sympathy in Japan for his Japanese wife, Hitomi Soga.

Jenkins met Soga in North Korea after she was kidnapped by its agents in 1978 to help teach spies to speak Japanese. They have two North Korean-born daughters, aged 21 and 19.

"I hope we four can go to Sado Island and live together as soon as possible," Soga told reporters early today, referring to the small north Japanese island that is her home.

Soga, almost 20 years Jenkins' junior, was allowed to return to Japan two years ago with four other abductees, but had to leave her family behind.

Jenkins arrived in Tokyo for medical care in July after Japan arranged for the family to be reunited in Jakarta.

Since then, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has had to balance the US desire to see Jenkins face court martial with Japanese public sympathy for his wife.

Washington says Jenkins, a native of Rich Square, North Carolina, slipped into North Korea one cold January night in 1965 while leading a patrol near the Demilitarised Zone separating the two Koreas and later joined Pyongyang's propaganda machine.

Jenkins had lied about his age to enlist at 15, and said in a recent interview with the *Far Eastern Economic Review* that he wanted to turn himself in to "clear my conscience".

Charged with desertion, aiding the enemy, encouraging disloyalty and soliciting other service members to desert, he has several legal options.

Speculation has focused on a possible pre-trial deal in which he would plead guilty to one or more charges but offer to tell the US military what he knows about North Korea in exchange for a punishment lighter than the maximum of life in prison.

US President George W Bush is said to be reluctant to give Jenkins special treatment while American troops are fighting in Iraq and ahead of November's presidential election.

But Koizumi, who backed the US-led war in Iraq and sent non-combat troops there in the face of public hostility, wants Soga and her family to be able to live together in her homeland.

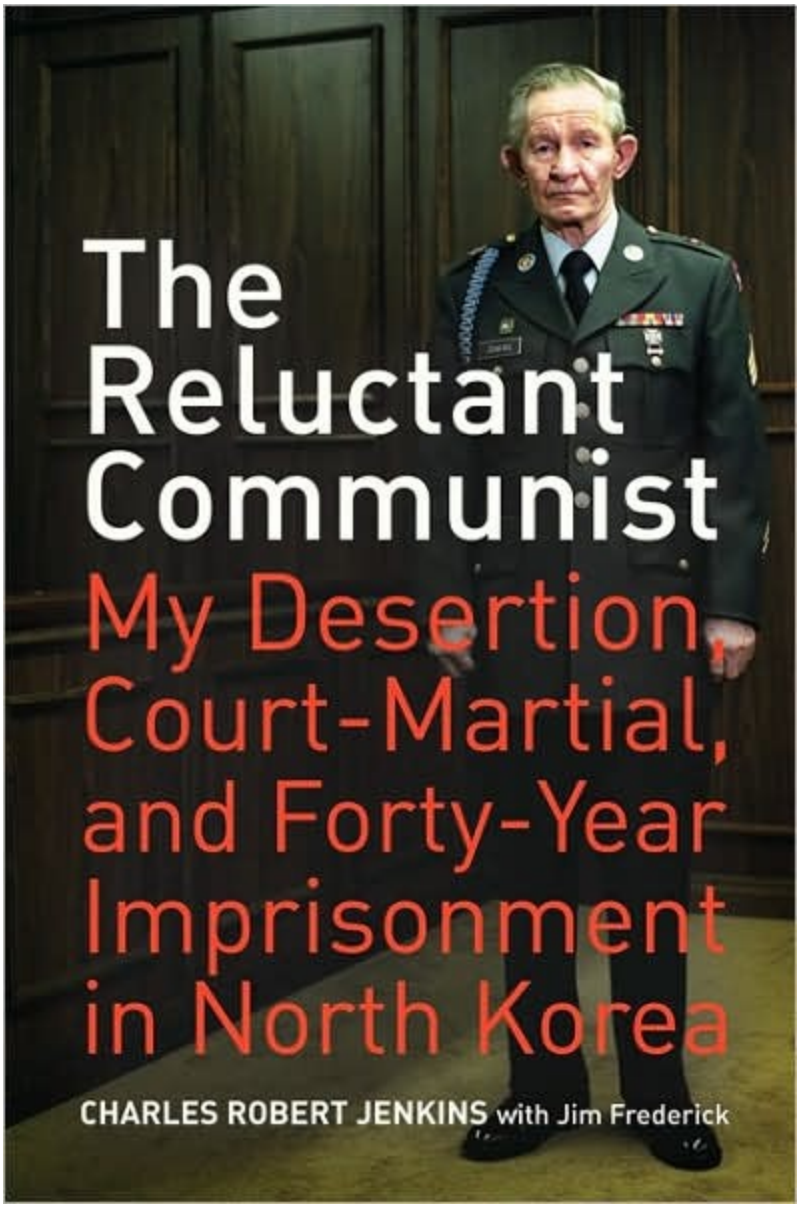
Jenkins will be supplied with whatever he needs to resume active duty, including a haircut and a uniform. His family will be treated like other soldiers' dependants and are expected to be housed on the military base.

Known as "Super" to his family, the jug-eared Jenkins left school early and washed cars at a Ford dealership before lying about his age to enlist in the National Guard when he was 15. He later joined the army.

Soga was one of five Japanese abductees who returned to Japan in 2002 after more than a quarter of a century in reclusive North Korea. Her poise and a penchant for poetic expressions have won the hearts of many Japanese.

- Reuters

http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2004/09/11/1094789738751.html



The Reluctant Communist by Charles Robert Jenkins with Jim Frederick. Charles Robert Jenkins is a former U.S. Army sergeant who deserted his unit in South Korea in January 1965 by escaping to North Korea via the Demilitarized Zone. Charles Robert Jenkins lived in North Korea for 40 years and married a Japanese lady; Jenkins, his wife, and his two daughters now live in Japan.

Deserter Recalls N. Korean Hell

By Daniel Schorn

This segment was originally broadcast on Oct. 23, 2005.

In 1965, Charles "Robert" Jenkins, an American soldier, did something impossible to understand. He deserted to North Korea and got stuck there. For 39 years, six months and four days, he was trapped in a bizarre Stalinist state — hungry, suffering, told by the government how to live, what to read, and even when to have sex. Never before has an American lived among the secretive North Koreans so long and escaped to tell the tale.

Correspondent Scott Pelley reports.

When he deserted, Jenkins essentially stepped off the world. He had not driven a car in 40 years; he didn't know what a Big Mac was. As ***60 Minutes*** first reported in 2005, Jenkins told Pelley he had never heard of the CBS News program but hoped to get his story into *Life* magazine, which stopped publishing as a weekly in 1972.

Robert Jenkins tells his story, an American Rip Van Winkle who, one night, crossed a minefield into a nightmare.

"Thinking back now, I was a fool. If there's a God in the heaven, he carried me through it," said Jenkins.

"Robert, if God in heaven carried you through it, you ended up in hell," said Pelley.

"That's it. Yeah. I got my punishment," Jenkins replied, in a drawl showing his roots in North Carolina, where he grew up in a large but poor family.

Jenkins dropped out of high school and joined the military. In 1964, he volunteered for a second tour on the hostile border between North and South Korea.

He was a sergeant, a squad leader, but had been thinking about deserting to the north. On a subzero night, he downed 10 beers and led his men on his last patrol.

"Well, I told them I heard something and I would be back in a few minutes. I would go and check it out. And I left and I started walking. Started walking north," Jenkins recalled. He now realizes that he had abandoned his troops.

What would he tell the men from that squad watching the interview? "I apologize for leaving them. They had faith that I would take them through. But I betrayed them," said Jenkins.

He told ***60 Minutes*** he betrayed them and his country because, on the border, he was being asked to lead more aggressive, provocative patrols, and that scared him. He was also hearing his unit might ship out to Vietnam.

Instead, he walked through the night and surrendered to an astonished North Korean soldier. Jenkins was 24 years old.

Jenkins says he knows he made a mistake. "I made a lot of mistakes in my life, maybe, but that was the worst mistake anybody ever make. That's for sure."

What was Jenkins thinking? Jenkins says he was no communist sympathizer and imagined the North Koreans would send him to Russia and the Russians would trade him to America in some sort of a Cold War swap. It's a nice plot for a novel but not the script North Korea had in mind.

Jenkins joined the North's collection of American Army deserters. At the time, there were three others already living in North Korea. He shared a house with Larry Abshier, Jerry Parrish and James Dresnok.

"Dresnok told me, 'You're here, you'll never leave,'" Jenkins said.

Then, as now, North Korea was a totalitarian state straight out of the pages of George Orwell. The dictatorship of Kim Il Sung imposed complete control of body and mind.

What did the four American soldiers do all day long in Pyongyang? Jenkins says they were forced to study the teachings of Kim Il Sung.

Korean political officers called "leaders" forced the Americans to study Kim's writings eight hours a day for seven years. They memorized it in Korean, a language they didn't understand. And even now, the words lie on his memory like a scar.

While reciting one of Kim Il Sung's teachings in Korean for Pelley, Jenkins had a pained look on his face. "In words, I cannot express the feelings I have towards North Korea, the harassment I got. The hard life," he said.

At one point, Jenkins was assigned a woman and ordered by the government to have sex with her twice a month.

"The leaders almost tell her when to do it. And I got in a big fight one time over it, because of one leader. I told him it's none of his business: 'If I want to sleep with her, she want to sleep, we sleep.' 'No, two times a month,'" Jenkins said, recalling the argument.

Jenkins says he got the worst beating ever for talking back to a leader. He showed Pelley a scar where he says his teeth came through his lower lip.

But even that beating wasn't as bad as the day someone noticed Jenkins' tattoo with the words "U.S. Army" inked into his forearm below crossed rifles.

Jenkins says the North Koreans held him down and cut off the tattoo with scissors and no anesthetic. "They told me the anesthetic was for the battlefield," Jenkins said. "It was hell."

He wanted to believe he was still in the Army but now the North Koreans had cut the words right out of his flesh.

"It's really in the details that you start to understand just how bad his life was," says Jim Frederick, *Time* magazine's Tokyo bureau chief, and co-author of a book Jenkins published in Japan.

Much of the book deals with Jenkins' description of his struggle to survive the pervasive poverty of the North.

"He never had any heat. Or, well, when we had heat, you know we had to stoke the boiler ourselves," says Frederick. "He had an apartment, but the toilet didn't flush. You had to flush it by hand. And it didn't really have a septic tank, it had a pipe. An outlet pipe out the back, so rats would come up."

And consider, the Americans were being treated better than most North Koreans because the government was using them – posing them in staged propaganda fliers, forcing them to teach English to military cadets and would-be spies.

Jenkins was also ordered to act in the movies. In one film he played the evil American Dr. Kelton. Jenkins' family got a copy of this movie from a reporter 32 years after he disappeared.

"What did you say when you saw that face on the screen?" Pelley asked Jenkins' sister Pat Harrell.

"It was the first ray of hope that I had actually had in all those years, that he is alive. He looked well," she recalled.

And back in North Korea, Jenkins was also touched by a ray of hope. In 1980, after 15 lonely years, his leaders brought a 21-year-old Japanese girl to his door. "Well, I'll put it like this. I looked at her one time. I wasn't letting her go," said Jenkins.

She was Hitomi Soga, and she had been kidnapped in one of the most bizarre intelligence operations in modern history.

North Korea was abducting ordinary Japanese citizens and forcing them to teach Japanese to North Korean spies. In 1978, Hitomi was kidnapped by North Korean agents on a road on Sado Island, Japan.

She was shoved onto a boat and disappeared. No one in Japan knew why or how.

Soga and Jenkins were from two completely different worlds but he says they had something in common. "She was a prisoner. I was a prisoner. We're both the same. We both hated North Korea. So that's really about the only thing you'd say we had in common."

Within weeks they were married, a union arranged by the government they despised, but Jenkins says it bloomed into a true marriage.

Each night before going to bed in North Korea, Jenkins said good night to his wife in Japanese, rather than Korean. He did it, he tells Pelley, to "remind her that she's still Japanese, that she's not Korean. She's not obligated to Korea. She is Japanese and she spoke to me in English, every night. Regardless of how hard things got, we always stuck as one."

They "stuck as one" for 22 years, raising two daughters, Mika and Brinda. Then in 2002, the completely unexpected happened.

To improve relations, the new dictator of North Korea, Kim's son, Kim Jong Il, admitted to Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi that North Korea had kidnapped 13 Japanese citizens.

The survivors, including Hitomi, returned home, where she became a national hero.

But Jenkins and the girls stayed behind. The North didn't want them to go, and Jenkins knew that he would be arrested by the U.S. Army for desertion if he left.

He spent two more lonely years in North Korea, until there was a diplomatic breakthrough and Jenkins decided that going to prison would be worth it if he could see his wife again. Hitomi was reunited with Jenkins and their daughters in Indonesia.

In September 2004, Sgt. Jenkins reported for duty at a U.S. base in Japan. It appears no deserter has ever come back after being gone so long.

Jenkins said it felt good to be in uniform again after 40 years.

"Felt good? Why so?" Pelley asked.

"I correct my mistake. I come back," Jenkins said. "And Mika and Brinda, they had never seen me, they never saw me in uniform and I didn't think they ever would."

He pled guilty to desertion and aiding the enemy and was released from the brig after 25 days. "I've paid my debt to society. I don't expect people to run up to me and hug me and kiss me. I don't want them to," said Jenkins.

And Jenkins does not think of himself as a traitor. "If I was a traitor, I wouldn't have come back."

Pelley asked Jenkins what amazed him the most about the world since he left it in 1965.

He had never laid a hand on a computer, much less been on the Internet. He told ***60 Minutes*** he was surprised there were so many women in the Army, that there were black policemen, and, as he put it, you can't smoke anywhere anymore.

Jenkins says he had been told about the historic landing of men of the moon. "I was told that by the Koreans, one of the officers. They wouldn't say what country, but they said, 'Una handa la'… some country landed on the moon."

Today, Jenkins has landed on Sado Island, Japan, not far from the spot where his wife was kidnapped. But before he came to the family farm, he had to know that Hitomi's love flowed from freedom, not slavery.

Jenkins volunteered to dissolve the marriage. "I told her, 'In North Korea, it's one thing. This is Japan. You're still young. If you wish for me to go, I'll go.' "

But Hitomi said no.

After Hitomi, there was just one other woman in the world he needed to see: his mother. When he left for duty in South Korea, he told her he would be back in a year.

Last summer, Jenkins visited North Carolina where, at the age of 91, his mother, Pattie Casper, had lived long enough to see her son come home.

"Yeah, I love you. … I didn't think you would ever get here," his mother said during the reunion.

"It was hard, very difficult, very hard," Jenkins tearfully replied.

Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18560_162-959455.html

Kim Shin-jo: Seoul Survivor
40 Years after Commando Raid, Former Assassin Lauds New President
By Andrew Salmon

Kim Shin-jo

SEOUL - He was once dispatched to assassinate a South Korean president, but Kim Shin-jo was delighted at Monday's inauguration of conservative Lee Myung-bak in Seoul.

"There has been something wrong in our society," says Kim, 67, of the last 10 years of liberal rule in Seoul. "I believe Lee will defend freedom."

The sole survivor of a North Korean commando squad tasked with "cutting the throat" of then-South Korean President Park Chung-hee in 1968, Kim, today a Presbyterian pastor, is a fierce critic of the engagement policy pursued by the previous two Seoul administrations.

"North Korea has not been 'engaged,'" he thundered at his office in a Christian retreat among hills overlooking the frozen Han River, north of Seoul. "Nothing has changed in the regime or the military: South Korean support has only made the regime stronger!"

Kim Il-sung's Commandoes
He should know. Kim grew up in a staunchly communist family in North Korea. At 24, during his military service, he was selected for special forces. "I realized I was undertaking a revolutionary mission," he said. "My life was no longer guaranteed."

Training was grueling. They learned weaponry, navigation, parachuting, amphibious infiltration, camouflage. One concealment tactic was to dig into graves and hide. "We slept with the bones: It made you fearless, and nobody would think of looking for you in a grave!" They swam rivers and ran up mountains. Carrying 30 kilo packs, they ran at 12 km/h in broken country. Sometimes they were starved, and forced to eat roots, snakes and frogs. Some men lost toes, fingers and even feet to frostbite in winter. Martial arts were emphasized: On his left hand and arm – "I was a southpaw!" - Kim still bears scars from breaking and knife fighting.

His first cross border operation was to undertake a reconnaissance of a U.S. radar installation. The mission was successful: He returned without detection. His next operation would be a different matter.

Mission Impossible?
1968 would prove the fiercest year of the Asian Cold War. In Vietnam, it would be marked by the Tet Offensive. In Korea, the U.S. spyship the Pueblo would be seized. Before those events, in January, Pyongyang's high command planned an audacious operation to reunify the peninsula under communist rule within days.

"It had to be a short-term war," Kim said. "In the Korean War, North Korea could not win due to lack of money, lack of resources. The strategy was to win before U.S. aircraft from Okinawa could arrive. It had to be a swift, assymetrical attack."

The plan was to assassinate South Korean President Park Chung-hee. Media reports of his death, Kim claims, would signal other North Korean commando units to go into action - by low-level parachute landings, amphibious infiltration, and foot infiltration across the border. Ministries and key U.S. and South Korean military bases would be attacked. Prisons would be opened, sewing confusion. Commandoes with special equipment would take over broadcasting stations and post offices. Pro-North Korean elements in the south would rise on Jan 22, and the headless government would collapse. "It would be like a revolution from within," said Kim.

The unit chosen to spearhead the operation was the crack 124th Special Forces – Kim's unit. Three assault teams would attack the presidential Blue House, in central Seoul. Kim, a lieutenant at the time, would lead a group that would clear the first floor The unit's commander would lead his team onto the second floor, executing Park. The third group would provide cover. Three men would commandeer getaway vehicles.

"We were confident," Kim recalled. "We knew all about the Blue House defense; we didn't think much of their bodyguards."

Into the South
At 04:00 on January 18, 1968, 31 commandoes crossed the border. (The border fence they cut is preserved to this day). They wore South

Korean uniforms and were trained in Seoul accents – “This is the basis of guerilla fighting!” They removed mines as they went. They halted before a South Korean observation post: Women were going in: “They were not very alert!” Covered in white sheets, the assassins crossed the frozen Imjin River.

Moving at night, they avoided patrols, but lying up on a forested hillside, were discovered by a group of poor loggers. Kim suggested killing them - “by the book” - but his commander, Kim Jong-moon, who had led seven cross-border operations, let them free. “At that point, I thought our mission would fail,” Kim said.

After dark, the men moved out. Before long, they became aware of trucks and buses moving. The loggers had alerted the military. “They blocked the roads, but they could not stop us,” said Kim. “They thought we would move at 8 km/h, but we moved at 12 km/h. They blocked the roads behind us: We had already passed through!”

It was freezing. South Korean soldiers tasked with hunting them lit fires, giving away their positions. The commandoes easily avoided them and crossed the Seoul ring road en masse. They laid up in the mountains overlooking the city. Below was a bus terminal. The objective was within reach. Gazing over the suburbs, Kim had one surprise: Seoul, which he was told would be blacked out due to electricity shortages, was glittering.

The men hid their uniforms and dressed in Japanese civilian clothes they had carried with them. Their personnel weapons – automatic rifle, 320 rounds, 14 grenades, pistol, dagger – were concealed in waist bands, and covered with trench coats. Thus armed, the assassins entered the city. In was January 21st, 1968.

Firefight
Seoul was crawling with military and police. “We were stopped by police. They said, ‘Who are you?’ We said, ‘Capital Intelligence Command! We are on an operation!’ They let us go on.” But at approximately 10:30AM, around 200 meters short of their objective, they were challenged by a local police chief. This time their bluff did not work: He demanded ID. The commandoes drew their weapons, mowing down the police officer and his jeep driver. Then they attacked.

The Blue House, however, had been reinforced. Outside its front gate, the commandoes ran into a defense platoon armed with automatic weapons. A furious firefight broke out. Incongruously, a bus drove through the crossfire. It was pepper-potted, the women and school children aboard killed. Then tanks rumbled up. The commandoes had no way to take on armor. They scattered. Most headed north. Kim broke east. Suddenly he was surrounded. “I put my weapon down. I had a desire to live: It’s the basic instinct of humans.”

Of Kim’s unit, twenty nine were hunted down and killed over nine days. One escaped. Sixty eight South Koreans and three Americans also died.

Interrogation, Defection, Religion
For one year, Kim was interrogated. No violence was used: The South Koreans must have realized that would have been counter-productive: “I had high self-esteem” Kim said. He told his captors everything they wanted to know. Then he was put on trial, where it was proven that his weapon had not been fired. “In the firefight, I only had one concern: To survive.”

On 10 April, 1970, he was freed to enter society. He found work in construction and lectured to the South’s army on the North’s special troops. In October, he married a Christian who had written to him while in captivity. The couple had two children.

But life proved difficult. He learned his parents had been executed after his defection became known. In the market, his wife was pointed out as the “wife of the North Korean spy.” His children faced trouble at school; Kim’s story was featured in textbooks. He attempted suicide.

On her birthday in 1980, his wife asked him to join her at church as his present to her. Kim consented. Christianity intrigued him. As he learned more, he found peace. In 1995, he became a pastor. Today, he preaches at a religious retreat outside Seoul and counsels North Korean refugees in the South. He has authored four books. One, referring to the fact that he can never return home, is entitled, “The Wild Goose that Cannot Fly North.” “I pray for both countries,” he said.

He hopes that President Lee will take a tougher line with the North than his predecessors. Like many defectors, he believes that Seoul “has been driven, exploited and used by North Korea.”

He remains suspicions of Pyongyang, which lacks high-technology military assets but retains dangerous unconventional warfare capabilities.

“It took the South Korean Army nine days to track down my unit: What would they do if all the North Korean special forces came South?” he asks. “There are 100,000 like us! Only when all special force units are disbanded can we say the North has given up its intention to communize the South.”

And that disastrous mission, 40 years ago?

“I try not to think about it,” he said. “It still fills me with horror.”
ENDS

Source: http://www.armchairgeneral.com/forums/showthread.php?t=61784

North Korean Fighter Pilot Defects to South With Jet

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF
Published: May 24, 1996

A North Korean Air Force captain defected to South Korea today in his MIG-19 fighter plane, setting off air raid sirens before arriving on a South Korean air base with his aircraft and a mountain of intelligence about the North Korean military.

The incident lasted only about 13 minutes as the defector, Capt. Lee Chul So, raced to the Yellow Sea from North Korea and then inland toward South Korea. South Korean forces, fearing an attack, set off air raid alarms in the western suburbs of Seoul, the capital, and scrambled six fighters to intercept the Northern plane.

Captain Lee dipped his wings, to signal that he was not hostile, and the South Korean planes escorted him carefully to an air base where he landed and was immediately placed under tight security.

"I couldn't live under the North's system any longer," Captain Lee told a handful of South Korean reporters who were allowed to talk to him soon after he landed.

The defection, if genuine, was the first in 13 years of a pilot with a plane. The MIG-19 is an old model and is not expected to yield major new information to South Korean intelligence specialists, but Captain Lee is a rare source of direct information on the abilities and preparedness of the North Korean Air Force.

"It's not just a plane and a man, but information about the state of troops in North Korea," said a senior Government official in South Korea.

The defection comes at a very delicate moment in inter-Korean relations. North Korea, the last Stalinist state in the world, is suffering from economic disintegration and widespread hunger, and some American officials warn that the North could strike out against South Korea out of desperation, believing that the alternative is internal collapse.

The border between the Koreas remains the site of the greatest massing of enemy troops in the world, and the United States keeps 37,000 American troops in South Korea to deter a North Korean attack. To reduce the risk of another Korean war, President Clinton and President Kim Young Sam of South Korea met in the South last month and together offered a new peace proposal to the North.

The proposal, which North Korea has said it is still considering, calls for four-party peace talks involving the two Koreas, the United States and China. Some experts warned today that the defection would infuriate North Korean leaders and might leave them less inclined to accept the peace proposal.

"It will probably make North Korean policy makers more nervous about contacts with South Korea, and they may draw back for a little while," said Kim Kyung Won, a former envoy to the United Nations and the United States.

North Korea had no comment today on the defection.

Defections from North Korea are growing increasingly common, though usually they are civilians who come through third countries. A growing number have been drawn from the North Korean elite, in what may be a sign of growing discontent even in the most pampered stratum of North Korean's society.

"This is another in the current series of defections by members of North Korea's establishment," another senior South Korean Government official said. "This is someone the North Korean leadership trusts."

To reduce the risk of defections, North Korea carefully picks pilots who are thought to be especially reliable politically and who have family members they must leave behind. In addition, the cockpit radios of military aircraft are rigged so that they cannot receive South Korean transmissions, making it impossible for a defecting pilot to explain his purpose to South Korean pilots or South Korean ground control.

Captain Lee leaves his father, his wife and two children behind in North Korea. There have been reports that members of defectors' families are sometimes imprisoned or executed, although on other occasions family members have avoided severe punishment.

South Korea offers rewards for defectors, although it has drastically trimmed them recently, and a South Korean television station said Captain Lee might be able to collect $320,000 for landing the MIG-19 in South Korea.

At the time of the last defection, in 1983, South Korean radar was late in detecting the intrusion. But the radar systems have been upgraded, and today Government officials said with some relief that Captain Lee's plane had immediately prompted an alert.

"The South Korean intercept mission worked perfectly," said Jim Coles, an American spokesman for the United Nations forces in South Korea.

In another unusual incident today, North Korea reportedly sent five naval vessels into South Korean-controlled waters this morning. While such intrusions happen from time to time, military specialists said this involved more boats than any previous such incident.

The episode began, according to an account by the South Korean Defense Ministry, when about 10 North Korean naval craft approached the maritime dividing line. Five of the boats crossed over and remained about 20 minutes before being chased back by South Korean gunboats sent to the area. No shots were fired.

North Korea offered a different version of events, asserting that the South Koreans had illegally infiltrated warships deep inside North Korean territorial waters.

"The infiltration of the warships is a deliberate and premeditated provocation aimed at intentionally aggravating inter-Korean confrontation and tension," the North Korean statement declared.

Source: The New York Times

How North Korea Keeps Them From Flying Away

November 24, 2010: In South Korea an air force officer, Lee Chul-su, was recently promoted to colonel. What was special about this was that 14 years ago Lee was a captain in the North Korean Air Force. But he decided to defect, in his elderly MiG-19 fighter, flying out over the water, along the west coast, to a South Korean air base. Lee was allowed to join the South Korean Air Force, where he served as an expert, and instructor, on how the North Korean air force operated.

Very few North Korean pilots have defected like this. The only other one got out in 1983, also flying a MiG-19. This is no accident. The North Koreans take precautions to prevent this sort of thing. But other pilots have tried anyway. Last August a North Korean MiG-21 jet fighter crashed in China, 200 kilometers north of the border. The pilot did not eject and there was no fire after the plane plowed into the ground (indicating it was out of fuel.) China later reported that the aircraft went off course because of "mechanical problems." But that does not explain why the pilot did not try to land or bail out. A more likely explanation was that the pilot was trying to defect (to Russia, as China tends to return defectors). To avoid that possibility, North Korea warplanes are supplied with minimal fuel for training flights, and their ejection seats are disabled in peacetime. Other interceptors are kept in readiness to chase down and destroy defectors. So to get out, pilots have to evade all this scrutiny, and use your minimal fuel to get to someplace you will be safe. It isn't easy.

North Korean aircraft are much older than their South Korean counterparts, and their pilots get much less time in the air. North Korea air combat tactics do not emphasize initiative, anyway. Increasing economic problems in the last decade have further reduced fuel available for pilot training. Thus most North Korean pilots are trained to carry out surprise, and often suicidal, attacks early in any future war with South Korea.

Source: http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htlead/articles/20101124.aspx

North Korean Turns Over A MiG

On 21 September 1953 a disenchanted North Korean pilot made a decision that changed his life and American history. Lt No (pronounced ro) Kum Suk was through with the North Korean government and determined to make a break for freedom. Lt. No was a fighter company commander in the second Regiment of the North Korean People's Air Force. He thought about defection number of times before, yet could not do it until his unit moved south to Sunan Airfield outside of Pyongyang after the war was over. He normally flew MiG-15bis Red 408, but on that he flew a MiG-15bis with the tactical number Red 2057. His regular aircraft had not arrived at Sunan yet. Number 2057 was normally flown in combat by a pilot named Kim Dea-Soon. It had been one of the first MiGs smuggled by rail back into North Korea from Manchuria after the cease-fire and re-assembled. The "2057" was a recently painted North Korean number, replacing its original Soviet tactical number. The fact that 2057 was a "bis" model, or advanced model of the MiG15, made it more desirable for the Americans. Its VK-1 engine had 1,000 lbs more thrust than the RD-45 engine of the earlier version, and had hydraulic ailerons. It was a real catch for the Air Technical Intelligence Center to get an updated version of this jet.

During his escape, Lt No purposely allowed another pilot to take off first. This was the first flight from Sunan since the war ended, and it was quite an honor. The other pilot readily accepted. Lt No hoped the first pilot would take his time and it would divert attention from his planned escape. He flew as second aircraft in the flight of three. Near the end of his flight, No broke to the south instead of landing in Sunan. It took only about thirteen minutes to make a straight approach. He made a downwind landing with F-86s landing on the same runway, scaring the pilot to death. He parked alongside an F-86 sitting alert on the ramp. He jumped down and began shaking hands. Although he did not know it at the time, the US offered $100,000 to the first pilot to fly a MiG-15 to the south. He found out at a news conference. The MiG was partially disassembled by Air Tactical Intelligence Center at Kimpo and flown in a C-124 to Kadena AB, Okinawa to be test-flown. PROJECT ZETA began. The USAF removed the North Korean markings and replaced them with small USAF markings. The US pilots did 11 test flights, and pushed the MiG probably harder that the Russians ever tested it. Test engineers had to modify some of the instrumentation, yet found the MiG very easy to work on.

After the flight test at Okinawa the aircraft was disassembled and flown to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, where it was thoroughly examined by Air Technical Intelligence Center personnel before reassembly and more flight-testing. The photo shows what the jet looked like as it was flown here at Wright-Patterson. The large TC616 was different than the initial markings on Okinawa. Rumor has it that the "TC" stood for the test pilot Tom Collins' initials. Since Chuck Yeager was the other main pilot, Mr. Ken Rowe (Lt No's Americanized name) believed it stood for "Tom and Chuck!"

Source: http://avstop.com/news/mig.html

RO KUM SUK: THE MAN WHO BROUGHT THE MIG OUT

WHEN RO KUM SUK landed at Kimpo, he was wearing a tan leather flying jacket, blue cotton pants, a blue shirt, a brown flying helmet, brown leather gloves, leather riding boots, a wrist watch, a Russian pistol, and his parachute. Ro reported that the NKAF has two types of parachutes. He was wearing the old-type with a solid canopy. The later type, known as the MPLK-48, is a ribbon-type chute which has a rubber life raft attached. In the picture above, note the bailout oxygen tank built into the seat of the chute. In contrast to the USAF bailout bottle of liquid oxygen, this tank is tied in directly with the aircraft oxygen system, and continues providing high-pressure oxygen when the pilot ejects.

Chung Hyun Church in Seoul, Republic of Korea (Photo: http://www.flickr.com/photos/westlothian/2400330994)

A church service takes place in Won Ju Methodist Church in South Korea. An estimated 14 million Koreans living in South Korea are devout Christians; an estimated 48 million people live in South Korea. Koreans in North Korea who are caught reading the Bible or worshipping God are subject to persecution and death by the North Korean army and secret police. Korean Christians who served or are serving as presidents of South Korea include Syngman Rhee, Yun Bo-seon (1960-1962), Kim Young Sam, Kim Dae Jung, and Lee Myung-bak.
(Photo: http://www.beckerath.com/en/news/news.htm)

Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. Over 33,600 American soldiers died during the Korean War; may they rest in peace.

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

General Douglas MacArthur's Farewell Speech to Congress

April 19, 1951

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker and distinguished members of the Congress:

I stand on this rostrum with a sense of deep humility and great pride - humility in the wake of those great architects of our history who have stood here before me, pride in the reflection that this home of legislative debate represents human liberty in the purest form yet devised.

Here are centered the hopes and aspirations and faith of the entire human race.

I do not stand here as advocate for any partisan cause, for the issues are fundamental and reach quite beyond the realm of partisan considerations. They must be resolved on the highest plane of national interest if our course is to prove sound and our future protected.

I trust, therefore, that you will do me the justice of receiving that which I have to say as solely expressing the considered viewpoint of a fellow American.

I address you with neither rancor nor bitterness in the fading twilight of life, with but one purpose in mind: to serve my country.

The issues are global, and so interlocked that to consider the problems of one sector oblivious to those of another is to court disaster for the whole. While Asia is commonly referred to as the gateway to Europe, it is no less true that Europe is the gateway to Asia, and the broad influence of the one cannot fail to have its impact upon the other.

There are those who claim our strength is inadequate to protect on both fronts, that we cannot divide our effort. I can think of no greater expression of defeatism.

If a potential enemy can divide his strength on two fronts, it is for us to counter his efforts. The Communist threat is a global one. Its successful advance in one sector threatens the destruction of every other sector. You cannot appease or otherwise surrender to communism in Asia without simultaneously undermining our efforts to halt its advance in Europe.

Beyond pointing out these general truisms, I shall confine my discussion to the general areas of Asia...

While I was not consulted prior to the President's decision to intervene in support of the Republic of Korea, that decision, from a military standpoint, proved a sound one. As I say, it proved a sound one, as we hurled back the invader and decimated his forces. Our victory was complete, and our objectives within reach, when Red China intervened with numerically superior ground forces.

This created a new war and an entirely new situation, a situation not contemplated when our forces were committed against the North Korean invaders; a situation which called for new decisions in the diplomatic sphere to permit the realistic adjustment of military strategy. Such decisions have not been forthcoming.

While no man in his right mind would advocate sending our ground forces into continental China, and such was never given a thought, the new situation did urgently demand a drastic revision of strategic planning if our political aim was to defeat this new enemy as we had defeated the old.

Apart from the military need, as I saw it, to neutralize the sanctuary protection given the enemy north of the Yalu, I felt that military necessity in the conduct of the war made necessary --

(1) The intensification of our economic blockade against China.

(2) The imposition of a naval blockade against the China coast.

(3) Removal of restrictions on air reconnaissance of China's coastal area and of Manchuria.

(4) Removal of restrictions on the forces of the republic of China on Formosa, with logistical support to contribute to their effective operations against the Chinese mainland.

For entertaining these views, all professionally designed to support our forces committed to Korea and to bring hostilities to an end with the least possible delay and at a saving of countless American and Allied lives, I have been severely criticized in lay circles, principally abroad, despite my understanding that from a military standpoint the above views have been fully shared in the past by practically every military leader concerned with the Korean campaign, including our own Joint Chiefs of Staff.

I called for reinforcements, but was informed that reinforcements were not available. I made clear that if not permitted to destroy the enemy built-up bases north of the Yalu, if not permitted to utilize the friendly Chinese force of some six hundred thousand men on Formosa, if not permitted to blockade the China coast to prevent the Chinese Reds from getting succor from without, and if there were to be no hope of major reinforcements, the position of the command from the military standpoint forbade victory.

We could hold in Korea by constant maneuver and at an approximate area where our supply-line advantages were in balance with the supply-line disadvantages of the enemy, but we could hope at best for only an indecisive campaign with its terrible and constant attrition upon our forces if the enemy utilized his full military potential.

I have constantly called for the new political decisions essential to a solution.

Efforts have been made to distort my position. It has been said in effect that I was a warmonger. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I know war as few other men now living know it, and nothing to me is more revolting. I have long advocated its complete abolition, as its very destructiveness on both friend and foe has rendered it useless as a means of settling international disputes.

Indeed, on the second day of September, 1945, just following the surrender of the Japanese nation on the battleship *Missouri*, I formally cautioned as follows:

"Men since the beginning of time have sought peace. Various methods through the ages have been attempted to devise an international process to prevent or settle disputes between nations. From the very start workable methods were found in so far as individual citizens were concerned, but the mechanics of an instrumentality of larger international scope have never been successful.

"Military alliances, balances of power, leagues of nations, all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be by way of the crucible of war. The utter destructiveness of war now blocks out this alternative. We have had our last chance. If we will not devise some greater and more equitable system, our Armageddon will be at our door. The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence, an improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature, and all material and cultural developments of the past two thousand years. It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh."

But once war is forces upon us, there is no other alternative than to apply every available means to bring it to a swift end. War's very object is victory, not prolonged indecision.

In war there is no substitute for victory.

There are some who for varying reasons would appease Red China. They are blind to history's clear lesson, for history teaches with unmistakable emphasis that appeasement but begets new and bloodier war. It points to no single instance where this end has justified that means, where appeasement had led to more than a sham peace.

Like blackmail, it lays the basis for new and successively greater demands until, as in blackmail, violence becomes the only alternative. Why, my soldiers asked of me, surrender military advantages to an enemy in the field? I could not answer.

Some may say to avoid spread of the conflict into an all-out war with China. Others, to avoid Soviet intervention. Neither explanation seems valid, for China is already engaging with the maximum power it can commit, and the Soviet will not necessarily mesh its actions with our moves. Like a cobra, any new enemy will more likely strike whenever it feels that the relativity in military or other potential is in its favor on a worldwide basis.

The tragedy of Korea is further heightened by the fact that its military action is confined to its territorial limits. It condemns that nation, which it is our purpose to save, to suffer the devastating impact of full naval and air bombardment while the enemy's sanctuaries are fully protected from such attack and devastation.

Of the nations of the world, Korea alone, up to now, is the sole one which has risked its all against communism. The magnificence of the courage and fortitude of the Korean people defies description. They have chosen to risk death rather than slavery. Their last words to me were: *"Don't scuttle the Pacific."*

I have just left your fighting sons in Korea. They have met all tests there, and I can report to you without reservation that they are splendid in every way.

It was my constant effort to preserve them and end this savage conflict honorably and with the least loss of time and a minimum sacrifice of life. Its growing bloodshed has caused me the deepest anguish and anxiety. Those gallant men will remain often in my thoughts and in my prayers always.

I am closing my fifty-two years of military service. When I joined the army, even before the turn of the century, it was the fulfillment of all my boyish hopes and dreams.

The world has turned over many times since I took the oath on the plain at West Point, and the hopes and dreams have long since vanished, but I still remember the refrain of one of the most popular barracks ballads of that day which proclaimed most proudly that **old soldiers never die; they just fade away.**

And like the old soldier of that ballad, I now close my military career and just fade away, an old soldier who tried to do his duty as God gave him the light to see that duty. Good-bye.

U.S. Army General Douglas MacArthur, former commander of Allied forces, first in World War II and then in Korea, gives his farewell address before the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on April 19, 1951. President Harry S. Truman relieved General MacArthur of his command over differences in opinion on strategy in Korea. (© CORBIS)

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William P. Litynski served in the U.S. Army from September 2001-November 2004, primarily in the First Armored Division in Germany (Apache Troop, 1-1 CAV, Budingen); he was deployed to Iraq (near Baghdad) from April 2003 until July 2004. He attended Crestview High School in Crestview, Florida from 1996-2000 and graduated in 2000. He lived at Yokota Air Base, Japan (U.S. Air Force base near Tokyo) from 1987-1993. (His mother is from Japan, and his grandfather was drafted twice by the Imperial Japanese Navy during World War II.) William P. Litynski has traveled extensively and has visited Tokyo, London, Paris, Rome, Berlin, Vienna, Brussels, Luxembourg City, Munich, Frankfurt am Main, New York City, Washington D.C., Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Seattle, and Dallas. (E-mail: wpl314@yahoo.com)

Chapter 24 of the Book of Matthew, King James Version of The Holy Bible

1: And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.
2: And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.
3: And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?
4: And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.
5: For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.
6: And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.
7: For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.
8: All these are the beginning of sorrows.
9: Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.
10: And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.
11: And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.
12: And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.
13: But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.
14: And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.
15: When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)
16: Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:
17: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:
18: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.
19: And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!
20: But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:
21: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.
22: And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.
23: Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.
24: For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.
25: Behold, I have told you before.
26: Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.
27: For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
28: For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.
29: Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:
30: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
31: And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
32: Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:
33: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.
34: Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.
35: Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.
36: But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.
37: But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
38: For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,
39: And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
40: Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
41: Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
42: Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.
43: But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.
44: Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.
45: Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?
46: Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.
47: Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.
48: But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;
49: And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;
50: The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,
51: And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.